

HEAVENS META

Number 19

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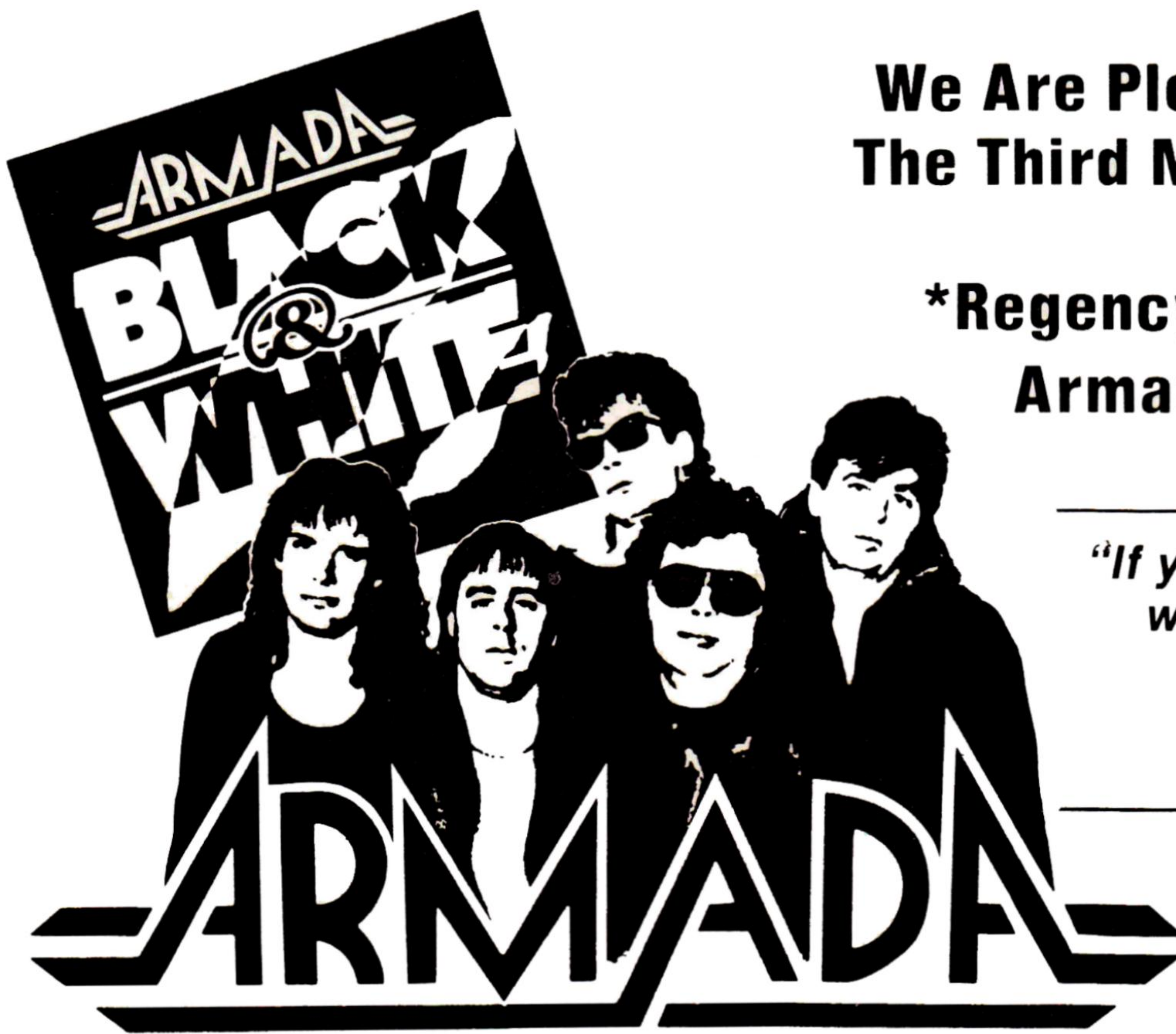
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Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly magazine that covers the Christian heavy metal genre. Praise God for this genre. He is a part of this movement...most of it. Be sure and be a part of the portion that He is making His presence known in.

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Prayer Partners, Heaven's Metal and the cost of printing.

Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two prayer partners. The names directly above and below yours are the ones you pray for and the ones who pray for you. Write in if you'd like their names and addresses.

Tell every Christian bookstore you go into that they can order Heaven's Metal through Spring Arbor. ISBN # is 000-688-7104.

Back Issues of Heaven's Metal are all sold out, except for a few copies of #17 and several of #18. They're \$2.95 each if you'd like to order some.

If you'd be willing to make copies of a Heaven's Metal flyer to post around your town, dorm, etc, write in and I'll send you a master copy.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO HEAVEN'S METAL ARE NOW

\$12. The cost of printing has increased a lot in the last year, along with postage, forcing Heaven's Metal to raise its subscription rates. Issue #18's printing costs were \$2300.00. The mailing costs were around \$600 for the initial mailout of 2500 copies. This depleted HM's account to below what it would cost to print another one. Now, I don't have to worry, and neither do you, because God's in control and the magazine will go on. As a matter of fact, God's provided abundantly between then and now! In order to keep growing though, it's going to cost

more money. I hesitated to raise the subscription price again, because this will be the second price increase in a year, but the bottom line is: printing costs bucks.

Canadian subscriptions are now \$14. Overseas subscriptions are \$22. Did you know it costs \$3.73 to mail a copy of HM to Australia? As you can see, HM is still losing money on subscriptions to countries like that (6 times \$3.73 is \$22.38) on airmail postage alone, which is another good reason to raise prices.

To help ease the pain, you may renew your subscription at the \$7.77 price until May 20th, 1989. Please ignore any classifieds that advertise the old price. I have contacted all the other underground zines and given them the new prices.

On the good news front: I cut my work hours in half, working part-time instead of full-time. This affords me much needed time to work with HM. I will now be able to catch back up on printing deadlines and answering mail. Things are improving. I thank God for being able to take this step towards working full-time with HM. We're getting closer to the days of glossy and color covers!

Staff Picks & The 1988 Reader's Poll

Here we have what should've been printed last issue, so the results would've shown up here. First off are the Heaven's Metal staff member's picks for the past year. Don't let our picks influence yours now. Also take note that the poll questions read "Favorite" instead of "Best" in each category. This is done in an attempt to keep us from preferring one brother or sister over another. There's enough competitiveness as there is.

It's a hard choice to choose a favorite album for 1988. The selection was soooo good! There was Vengeance, Whitecross, Bloodgood, Bjorn Stigsson, Sacred Warrior, King's X, Jerusalem, Barren Cross, Shout, Stryper, the "California", "East Coast" and "Underground" metal albums, tons of custom releases, Saint, and Bride, just to name a few. My choices fluctuate often, depending which one I've been playing over and over again lately.

Staff Picks:

Doug Van Pelt:

- 1) "Atomic Arena" - Barren Cross
- 2) "Rebellion" - Sacred Warrior
- 3) "Out Of The Silent Planet" - King's X
- 4) "Hammer And Nail" - Whitecross
- 5) "Human Sacrifice" - Vengeance

Caroline Knox:

- 1) "This Is A Condom Nation" - Lust Control
- 2) "Out Of The Silent Planet" - King's X
- 3) "Hammer And Nail" - Whitecross
- 4) "Atomic Arena" - Barren Cross
- 5) "In God We Trust" - Stryper

Bob Hopkins:

- 1) "In God We Trust" - Stryper
- 2) "Atomic Arena" - Barren Cross
- 3) "Rock In A Hard Place" - Bloodgood
- 4) "Live To Die" - Bride
- 5) "Hammer And Nail" - Whitecross

Steve Schmutzer:

- 1) "Atomic Arena" - Barren Cross
- 2) "Hammer And Nail" - Whitecross
- 3) "It Won't Be Long" - Shout

- 4) "Silence Screams" - Rez
- 5) "Rebellion" - Sacred Warrior

Here are the poll questions. Please send in your top three choices for each category. Please only choose metal/ hard rock acts that were released in 1988 (ie. no Flock 14 or Amy Grant, who aren't all bad by the way). For the Favorite album category, you may choose demos and custom tapes, even though there is a separate category for "favorite demo".

- 1) Favorite album of the year.
- 2) Favorite live band.
- 3) Favorite bassist.
- 4) Favorite singer.
- 5) Favorite drummer.
- 6) Favorite guitarist (The Heaven's Metal Guitar Hero Award).
- 7) Favorite album cover.
- 8) Overall favorite band.
- 9) Favorite demo tape.
- 10) Heaviest band.
- 11) Favorite song.
- 12) Favorite lyricist.
- 13) Favorite new band.
- 14) Most like to see interviewed.

The first twenty readers who respond will receive a Rage Of Angels promotional single/interview cassette. Out of all the responses, five will be randomly chosen to receive three free records, tapes or cd's. You get to choose one release from each of the following three companies: Frontline Records; Pure Metal Records; and Intense Records. How about it? Send in your responses now!

The Heaven's Metal Trivia Contest Results

Well, there were more prizes awarded than there were entrants in the first HM Trivia Contest...and nobody got all the questions right! Here's the questions and the corresponding answers:

- 1) What band was Larry Farkas in before Vengeance? **DELIVERANCE.**
- 2) What kind of drums does Robert Sweet use? **PEARL.**
- 3) What is Oz Fox's real name? **RICHARD MARTINEZ.**
- 4) What band recorded "You Lose" before Bloodgood? **CYPRESS**, which was Michael Bloodgood's previous band.
- 5) What Christian metal band toured with Twisted Sister in Finland? **LEVITICUS.**
- 6) What was the name of Darrell Mansfield's first solo album? **"HIGHER POWER".**
- 7) What label was the very first Saint album pressed on? **"Warriors Of The Son" was recorded on ROTTEN RECORDS.**
- 8) What band has been on the cover of Heaven's Metal twice and yet still isn't signed? **ETERNAL RYTE** (This answer is in the process of changing, as Pure Metal is negotiating with 'em.).

Adrian Ludens of Rapid City SD and Tim Elliot of Helena MT were the first two entrants with the most correct answers (6 out of 8). They both received a copy of Xalt's "Dark War" cassette and Faith Of Steel's first single.



The logo you're used to will be back on the cover next time. Meanwhile, enjoy this old one again.

Shoutin' In Your Face -- A Talk With Ken Tamplin



"We've got a new record," says Shout vocalist Ken Tamplin. "It's a lot heavier than our last record. It's just a lot of crunch and a lot more guitar. It's definitely just as it sounds, 'In Your Face'. We had a bunch of guest guitar players play on the title track."

**A Frontline sales rep, Kent Son-ger, let me hear a real rough demo of it a while ago and he said, "Hear this one spot where Ken kind of fades out, leaving a lot of room for Joe Satriani," who was supposed to play on it.

"Right, actually he was in the middle of doing his new record, so Lanny

Cordola from the House Of Lords played on it. Another guy by the name of Randy Hansen, who does a big tribute to Jimi Hendrix, played on it. Another guy by the name of Marty Freidman, from a big underground heavy guitar band called Cacophony played on it. Michael Angelo, that real speed freak, played on it. That big heavy metal Italian guitar player, Alex Masi, played on it. Another guy by the name of Joey Price, from a band called Thunderball, played on it. It was a lot of fun."

**How did you recruit the players to do that track?

"A buddy of mine, who's our pho-tographer and used to be staff photographer

for Metal Hammer, he knows everybody. We just called a few people here in LA and one of the guys was from 'Frisco, so we flew him down."

**Do you have any stories of how that was a witness to the guys?

"Well, actually, it was kind of neat. I find that, if you befriend people and don't come off real pontificating, and don't come off real commercialized as far as the way you believe in God, that you're really taken seriously. Our band strives for real musical professionalism and, in and of that, it demands a lot of respect from another musician. They don't care if you're a Hindu or whatever, as

long as your chops are up, you sing great, play great, and write good songs. What that does is just really open the door for them to say, 'Gosh, what's this lyric about?' It just really opens doors without having to cram things down their throat that they wouldn't normally be open to."

****Tell us how you came to know the Lord.**

"I was brought up primarily in a Christian home as a young person. I got very heavy into drugs, down to dealing cocaine, LSD, and PCP, and just doing quantities of drugs. I was brought up in a very wealthy home and it was very easy for me to have access to large amounts of money, so it was not difficult for me to support my habit. I picked up my first joint at about six years old. At the age of 12, I was playing with an empty co2 cartridge that had match heads crammed into it with match powder in it. I don't know if you've ever done that or not, but it's like you make a rocket out of an empty co2 shell. Well, it shot into my stomach and exploded and I was rushed to the hospital and basically I was expected to die. I was bleeding internally and so forth. I have a huge scar on my gut. They removed my spleen and the whole thing.

"Literally through the prayers of my mom, over the course of about two months, I was miraculously healed. From that point on, I messed up a couple of times. God just took ahold of me at Melodyland Christian Center one Sunday morning and changed my life just before I turned 14. I've been living for Him ever since. I feel like the Lord just spared my life for a specific reason, and that is to be as effective musically as...I want to say humanly possible, but we know that all things are possible through Him who pours the power into us. I practice my axe anywhere from three to six hours a day. I've spent a lot of money on my voice--somewhere in the neighborhood of around \$15,000 on vocal lessons over the last four or five years. I'm just really studying to show myself approved, to do all I can to compete with major acts like Bon Jovi and Def Leppard."

****You've played with a lot of diverse sounds. What led you into the hard rock of Shout?**

"I think it demands the most attention. Even though I can do the Lou Gramm and the 'pop' thing, I don't think it demands as much attention lyrically as a real hard, yet still commercial song...something that's hooky enough to get people to sing with it, but yet is demanding enough to grab the attention of someone due to the electricity of the energy. I think that hard, very hard commercial rock does that for me."

Ken used to play rhythm guitar for Joshua before he formed Shout. The following quotes are his response to the question about why he left Joshua.

"It was just one of those kinds of things where the Lord calls someone else into another ministry. It was definitely a harder decision for me and two of the other guys in Joshua to leave, a lot more so than it was for Joshua to have us leave.

"It was four and a half years of very hard work. My wife and I spent a lot of money in the group, trying to help it get underway. So did Joshua, so did other members of the band. We just made every effort we could to secure a major licensing agreement worldwide, which eventually we did with the producer of the Scorpions--Dieter Dierks. I lead sing-ed on a demo we cut in Germany. Dieter said, 'I like this guys. Let's cut a deal.' Not too terribly long after that, the Lord basically called me into doing something else. You know, it was just one of those things where God kind of has to jolt you a little bit. Like I said, it was probably harder for me to leave. My wife and I had a lot of money in the band, I mean, a lot of money. It was over \$35,000. So, it was definitely a hard decision to just walk away from that.

"We just had to say, 'Lord, whatever You want is what we want.' There were certain things that I maybe did or didn't disagree with,

"You'll really like the new record. It's at least three times as good as our last one."

but it really doesn't matter, because I really wasn't running it. It's definitely Joshua's band, and we said, 'Lord, we want to do what You want us to do, the way You'd want us to do it.' I felt like my purpose in the band had been completed. I did all I could to see that the group got a major secular licensing agreement--worked very, very hard at it--and I made a lot of contacts. I grew a lot spiritually. I grew a lot as a player, and I have no regrets about it. I just thank the Lord for His grace, His wisdom, sharpening iron, and the whole ten yards.

"I really felt like all of my efforts at that given point were done. At the time, I was lead-singing the band on and off for the time I was in the group and I was playing some guitar. I wanted to play a lot more guitar and Joshua has a very excellent lead guitar player, so it was difficult for me to say, 'Hey, let me play lead,' when he could probably play better. So that, accompanied with that, I really wanted to lead sing in a band and I didn't have quite the range that Joshua wanted. He wanted a really, really high lead singer, like a Micky Thomas or even higher. I was more like a Lou Gramm-type singer. I didn't really fit the bill for maybe what it was he wanted vocally. Even though I did help write a lot of the songs and did participate musically quite a bit, I really didn't feel like my full potential was being reached.

"I kind of wanted to be a little less conservative with the Gospel, I think. At least at that time, I was kind of cryin' out to maybe say a little more than maybe at the time the band felt it could have said...only because of the place they were in of the secular vein. They had to be a little more conservative in order to keep the record companies from freakin' out on 'em. That kind of bummed me out, because I just felt, 'Gosh, time's so short.' That may have been a point of immaturity on my part, or maybe not. I don't know. Nevertheless, it was something I had trouble dealing with. It was just a culmination of all those things that just led up to feeling like it was time to have God bring before me the ministry He's planned."

****Did you sing some on the "Surrender" LP?**

"I didn't sing lead on anything other than there's an intro to a song called 'Love Shock', and I think back up on a lot of stuff, but that was about it. Your readers should be able to find 'Surrender' in the import section of their local record store. It's a good record.

"I love everybody in Joshua and I pray that God anoints their ministry to the fullest extent of the capacity that God can use them. I'm just real thankful to have been a part of it.

"God took Chuck King from Idle Cure, who I think puts it best when he says, 'God took two ministries and made a third one, and that's Shout.' God's doin' some good stuff, and we see Him working and it's obvious that it was His hand. We're grateful for it, and we're grateful that God has given us all the opportunities to do the things we have and I just look forward to serving Him."

****Do you have any tour plans?**

"Yeah. We're supposed to do Ichthus, Agape, Cornerstone, and Creation. We're doing a couple of East Coast dates to fill in between Ichthus and Agape. We'll do a few shows here in L.A. for the album release in mid-March. We'll try to do something with Europe. We were going to tour with Helloween in Europe, but our artwork wasn't finished in time for Europe. We would have toured without having the product released beforehand, which wouldn't have worked."

****That's too bad. A tour with Helloween would be great. What about videos?**

"The first video from the album will be "Give Me An Answer", which will air on Europe MTV and hopefully carry over to MTV States later.

"You'll really like the new record. It's at least three times as good as our last one."

****I agree.**

"It's just really crunchy. I went for the full Coverdale, you know, with a touch of

Lou Gramm...that really heavy but commercial sound. I love lyrically where the whole record went. Lyrically, the album is just a gift from God."

**Melodic metal is my favorite.

"Oh, me too."

**How many units of "It Won't Be Long" have sold?

"To be really honest, I don't know. I think in the States it's somewhere between 50 and 60, as per our statement a couple of months ago. I'm sure it's at least another 15 or so in Europe. It may be the same in Japan. We're hoping to at least hit 100 with the thing."

**So, are you guys makin' a living, or are you doing something on the side?

"Actually, I'm not. I do the band full time. Chuck King is a general contractor. Loren Robinson is one of the head technical advisors for Sharp Electronics in their copiers/fax division. Joe Valetta is a full time drummer. As a matter of fact, he just went out with Michael White, the tribut to Led-Zeppelin a couple of months ago. He said, 'I hate this. I'll never do this again.' Poor guy. It's real hard to be a pro drummer like that, because you get all these offers to do things and it's just like a job and you work for an environment where people cuss and smoke and drink, and you go, 'Oh, Lord, please, I don't want this.' He's just doin' sessions and he's teaching and that's about it. We have hire-on keyboard players wherever we travel, because the Lord hasn't given us a keyboard player full time yet for the guy that we need. We've used Mark Hughgenburger for both records. He's a little on the expensive side. He just did the 'Dirty Dancing' tour, so it's a little harder for us to afford someone like that."

**What's on your heart these days, as far as what the Lord's been telling you?

"Time is of essence. Time is so short. I see things like the Pope addressing the U.N., the ancient revised Roman empire all of a sudden coming to power and calling the U.N. and E.E.C. to a common market. Why, of all people, the Pope? That's kind of strange. As our song, 'In Your Face', says, 'evidence that points to a truth that must be known/ the weather's changing all across the globe/ pestilence and famine shaking life like none before/ while Mother Earth is quaking more and more/ the facts are in your face'"

**Wow, and that's what all those guys played on.

"Right. The second verse says, 'Ancient words predict the times of kingdoms to rule with economic plans to unite/ and all the theories come and go about the origins of life/ yet a single cell points to its design/ the facts

are in your face.'

"You just look at all this stuff. You look at the ozone deterioration that's now the size of the North American continent. The winter solstice, between the months of November and April--the earth has technically raised three degrees, which has raised the water table level around the world between three to four feet. The greenhouse effect is just becoming astronomically unbelievable. Things are winding down. I mean, it doesn't take much to go, 'Things are winding down, and quickly.' It's asinine to assume that the earth has been here for five billion years, when you can watch it. The deterioration is happening at such a rate that it's absurd to hold to any sort of evolutionary garbage and try to cling to that when we see all this.

"There's a scripture. It says, 'The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, for God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, leaving men totally without excuse.' You think about that and you think about things that are made and you just go, 'Gosh, Lord, it's so evident as to the specifness of design, in DNA

"If you befriend people...you're really taken seriously."

molecules and different things that we see around us, that are just the very essence of life.' God says that, 'from the things that are unseen, the things that we can't see.' Now who in the world 2,000 years ago would have known that it was unseen molecules that made up substance that we see. Secondly, to have not only known that, but have said it was that very thing that is the glory and the essence of God that show forth its design and authorship and signature on everything.

"It's by the out and out deliberate wickedness of men who deliberately hold down the truth and suppress the truth--deliberately by their wickedness, because they choose to believe a lie and were given over to reprobate mind, because they want to live in sin. Dude, from things I've seen and from people I've seen, the athiests and the agnostics, the flat out ammorals I've noticed all over the world. I don't care where I've gone or what critic I've talked to in magazines, or who it is, so few people are learned about things. I'm not even talking about archaeology or ancient history. I am a foreign ancient history buff. It's really easy for me to talk about the Old Testament and draw in someone from Europe and say, 'Hey, you've got the Louvre over there, and the British museum at Oxford. Take a look

at some of the things I'm talkin' about. Substantiate the claim to make about the Old Testament. If you're a good reporter in history, why can't you take for granted the things you can't prove, you know, when you'd do that for Abraham Lincoln.' If I were to ask someone, 'do you believe that Abraham Lincoln lived?' Then they would say, 'Well, of course he did.' Well, how can you prove that? There's actually more evidences in the Bible to prove the things the Bible says about than to prove that Abraham Lincoln lived. You know, you've got people who just take that for granted.

"My point is I genuinely believe that people don't believe in God, not because they really deep down don't believe there's a God, because God says that inside of everyman, He puts in them--instills in them, and grafts into men's hearts--the knowledge of God. I don't care where you go. I genuinely believe that people don't believe because, number one, of a predisposition of disbelief in the supernatural, and, number two, an unwillingness to come to grips with the idea, because of pride, the very root of all evil--that's the root of all evil, not money. The love of money is pride. It's simply because they refuse to acknowledge accountability to a Creator. It's that simple. It's so much more difficult to believe that some microorganism in the ocean hundreds of millions of years ago formed by time times chance times probability than it is to go, 'God's real and He made me and I'm in His likeness.' It takes so much more effort. They have a lot more faith than I do to believe that. So, if there's any closing statments or finality to what I would have to say, it's: 'Gang, time is short. We need to get off our butts and get out there and start ministering God's Word and talking to people with a genuine faith that comes through: one, prayer; two, studying to show forth the things of what we're saying have root. They're substantial. They're authentic. That's it (laughter). Dude, I'm gonna start preaching if you keep me on the phone any longer."

**That's one of the reasons the Lord wants me to do this magazine. Any other themes on the album you want to talk about?

"I decided to take on certain themes that I've heard in different songs. Maybe you can or cannot tell which songs they're a direct affront to, but there are certain songs that I've heard in the secular marketplace by some very well known groups, one of which happens to be my cousin (Sammy Hagar), which grossly offended me.

"One of the songs is 'Borderline'. It talks about living life on the borderline instead of living life on the wild side, if you know what I mean. 'It's All I Need' talks about where you do have to die and choose whether or not you're gonna go to heaven or 'hang around to be born again.' The whole thing has little nuances of things that I basically am challenging. That's the theme pretty much for the whole record, and it's very much 'In Your Face' from start to finish. You'll look like the guy in the Maxell commercial sitting in the chair being blown away (laughter)." HM

The Yellow And Black Road To Success



STRYPE HYPE

Stryper has been out on the road since last Fall on what has been their finest tour/stageshow yet. They've drawn their largest audiences so far, with support acts like White Lion, Jet Boy, and Hurricane adding to the draw.

Bob Hopkins and myself each caught up with Stryper twice on this tour, giving Heaven's Metal four chances to ask 'em questions that haven't been asked before. So, here we go.

****Oz, You're an up and coming**

band that's getting out there. How does being a father change your perspective on all that?

"I guess I'm a little more responsible about certain things. I've gained more of a realistic attitude towards my family and what I need to do. Other than that, everything else is pretty much the same.

"I have a lot of thoughts about sometime maybe doing some type of work that doesn't require me being on the road so much, like producing. It's something I'm really looking forward to and getting more involved in. There's a lot of open doors for me. Guardian's the first thing I've ever done."

Oz finished that project in December, when he returned from the first leg of the IGWT tour.

"I'm hoping the album will do really well. That way I'll have a lot more offers. Of course I don't know what's to come day after day. I'm just taking it one day at a time. As for now, I'm in Stryper and out touring with Stryper. The main thing is to heed the calling of God and just go out there and share with people."

****As far as producing young bands, do you have a PO Box you'd want bands to send demos to?**



"I know my schedule with Stryper makes it really hard for me to do anything. I probably have to put things off for awhile until I'm pretty much done or until God's called me away from Stryper in one way or another, which I don't know how long that'll be. I do have a PO Box anyone could send something to if they wanted. It's PO Box 7000-172, Alta Loma CA 91701.

"I had just finished working on the IGWT album and that was a six month ordeal. Right after that I started working with Guardian, pretty much day and night. I had to make a couple trips to Switzerland and New York in between then. I pretty much didn't finish with Guardian until a couple of days before we went into pre-production for the tour, so I've had no time off this year. My wife and I decided it'd be best for me to lay back on producing for awhile, at least until I have more time. Maybe one of these days when I'm not real busy with Stryper, or if for some reason or other God's called me away from it, then I would do that.

"As far as studio stuff, that's one of my things. I've really got a lot of abilities in the studio. I can't really do as much as I want when I'm working with Stryper. Sometimes it's frustrating. When I'm producing bands, I can pretty much do whatever I want within the limits of the band's interest."

****So Tim, how does your wife cope with stuff, like when you're on the road?**

"She does pretty well. She sometimes comes out with us, like the first two months of this tour. She stays at home now and takes care of the house. She can adapt to either situation: staying at home or being out here on the road."

****You guys have bunks that are three up and two across. That's pretty close together...do any of you guys snore?**

"Not that I know of," says Robert.

"Different people talk in their sleep," laughs Tim. "We got 14 people on our bus and different people sleep at different hours. We usually sleep the longest. We get to bed the latest and the crew usually wakes up early...at about eight or nine in the morning. We'll end up getting up around noon."

****How does God use you to touch people inside the industry?**

"Just by being myself," says Oz, "that's the first thing. I don't pressure anybody into believing what I believe in. I don't go and praise God through the halls of the hotel, cause some people might think I'm crazy. I'm just myself. Myself following Jesus shines a light on people in a way that they see something different. Of course, sometimes I have my days where I'm not such a light shining, but everybody's human. Everybody makes mistakes. Everybody has their times."

****That's true.**

"A lot of times people pretty much understand that, at least people that see me like that. Most of the time it's the people I work with. They'll tell you first off, I'm not real hard to work with. I just feel like living my life for Christ and letting the Holy Spirit lead as far as talking to anyone or anything like that. Usually people come to me and ask me, 'What is this? Tell me more about it. What is it to follow Jesus?' That's when I sit down one-on-one and talk to people and share. Most of the time I ask these people if they want to accept Jesus, and they do. Some of 'em don't also. I've talked to some guys in some of these bands and they're so caught in their world that it's hard to get away from it. They don't know if they could handle it. They don't know if they'd be happy. Sometimes they just don't understand. I talked to Bobby Blatzer about it one time. He kinda felt like he wasn't ready to make that commitment. I told him, you don't have to be ready to make the commitment, you just gotta do it. He's just really caught up in his world. It's hard for people like that. I just do my thing and I say, 'Well, I love ya anyway, man.' They can respect that and it really puts an impact on 'em."

"But when you're gone to the next city, what in the world can you do?"

"I'd never go to anyone and pressure 'em. That's the last thing I wanna do, 'cause, in this rock scene, most people are very rebellious about somebody coming up and saying, 'Do you know Jesus? You better know Him!' People get real offended about that kind of stuff, 'cause Satan's got a real grasp on everyone. You gotta kind of approach it in a different way. I think that's where we've had the most success--in just layin' back and showin' 'em what it is to be a Christian, just living your life as one. It's the same with the White Lion guys. We're doin' the same trip. They can see it. You don't have to pressure 'em into anything. Robert's been hangin' out with Mike Tramp. Mike Tramp is definitely changing. You can see a big difference in his life because of it. We don't pressure him into anything. He asked Robert for a Bible. He got real sick on the road last week and he was asking Robert to pray for him. Everyone's seen a big change in his attitude. That's what I call an effective witness, is when someone's really changing."

****What do the guys in Jet Boy think of your relationship with Christ?**

"Well, probably what any other rock

'n' roll band would think," says Robert. "Hopefully they're just looking and learning something from us, and hopefully they'll walk away from the tour going, 'Hey, it's not that bad to be a Christian.' We don't try to impose anything on 'em or force anything on 'em. We just try to be their friends."

"That's what happened with White Lion. We were their friends first and that opened a lot of doors for us to be able to talk to them. They were expecting us to be a lot more crazy or fanatical...a lot more outspoken and pushy. When they saw that we were just nice guys, they respected us as far as a band goes and that opened doors for them to asking a lot of questions of what being a Christian was and why you had to be one. Maybe that'll happen with Jetboy too."

"Instead of being the Christians who are gonna confront 'em, we're here--number one--to be their friend. They look at us and they go, 'Wow, those guys are really down to earth people.' You can really begin to understand what Stryper means now."

"It's amazing. All of a sudden they'll start asking questions. The other night I went with 'em on White Lion's bus and the singer's sittin' in the front lounge, holding a New Testament, asking me stuff. 'What should I read?' I told him, 'Start with Matthew 5:5.' It's so cool."

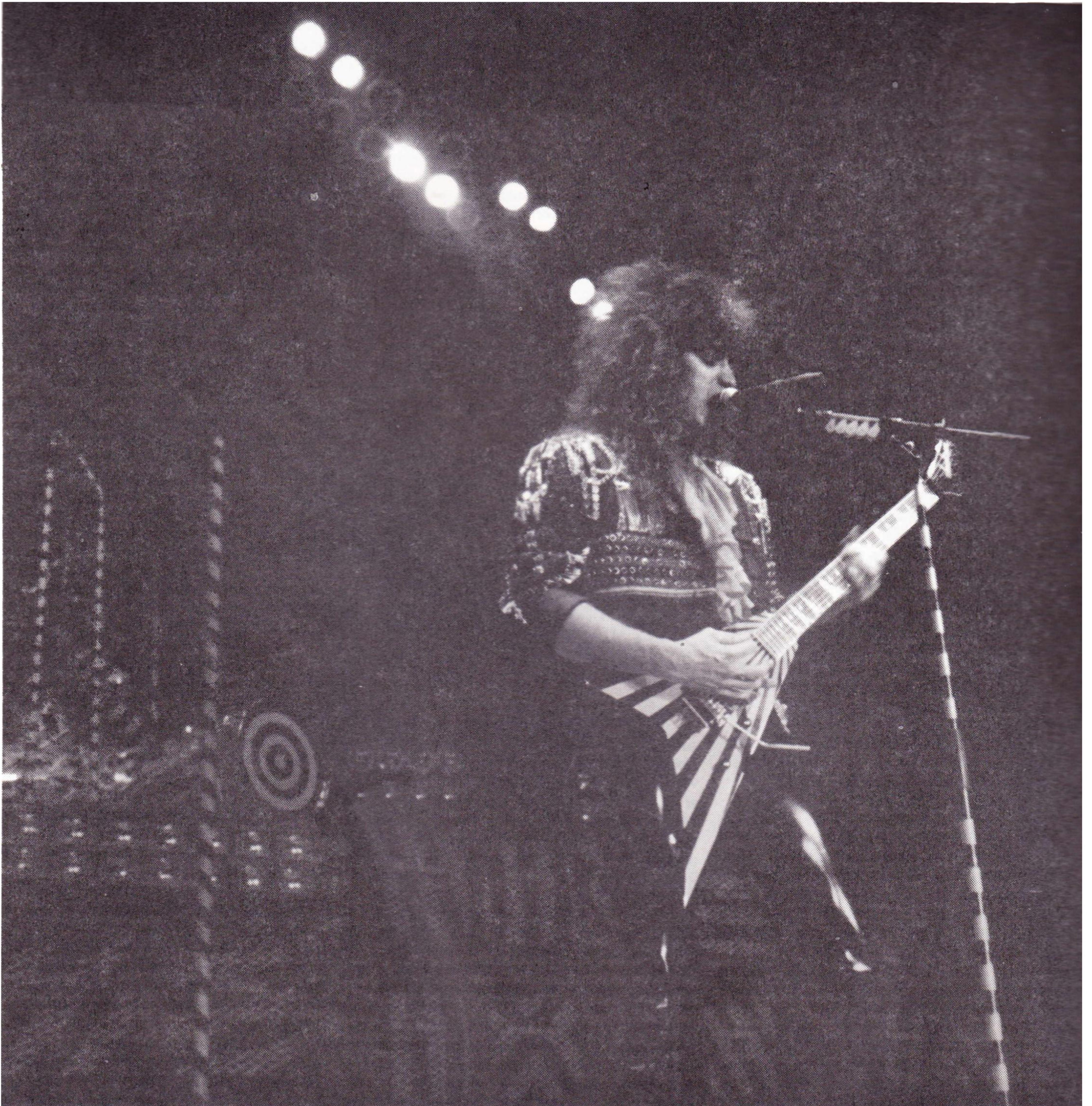
"I've been jammin' with the guys," says Oz, "having fun. We talk about trading licks and stuff."

****On the road, are you guys feeding yourself with teaching tapes or books, and stuff like that?**

"We get together and have little studies and little prayer times," says Oz. "That's pretty much what we do as a group. Some of the guys in the crew are Christians and we all get together and do it. That pretty much keeps us together. If you just have the fear of the Lord solidly in your heart, it makes it a lot easier to be out here away from church and away from some of the study time. It helps us to get together and do things together. We want to get together and read the Word and pray and stuff. It's just really neat how the Lord's just imbedded it in our hearts like that. It's like an automatic feeling."

****How do you feel when you leave a city about sharing Jesus and planting seeds and goin' to the next town? Do you ever reflect on that and what happens to the kids that are touched?**

"I feel good about talking to kids after shows and they say that they've been touched and they've become Christians and so forth. I get all these reports and it really makes me feel good to know that, but I don't sit there and count it up. I just say, 'Keep following Jesus,' and I go to the next town and do the same thing. It's not a thing of pride where I think about, 'Wow, I've talked to this many people and prayed with this many people.' My whole attitude is, 'Hey, I'm here. Today is



today and this is what I've got to do. Whatever the Lord puts before me, I do it."

**Do you have any plans on having

more in-depth follow-up on the kids that get saved?

"Not really, to be truthful with you,"

says Robert.

"If they accept Christ, that's great," says Tim. "We hope the Holy Spirit guides them, but we can't be responsible for all that.

We have too much pressure upon us already—just keeping the business end and the band together. We look at ourselves more as a rock band than a ministry that's here to follow up and check up after people."

"What we look at it as," says Robert, "we plant the seeds. Hopefully, the people will be encouraged to accept Christ. We'll do whatever we can at that point. But, when we're gone to the next city, what in the world can you do? Ya know, people write to our office and they get a response back from us. There are people that write in five, six, and seven times regularly and they ask for advice and whatever and we give it to them through the office. Otherwise, I just don't know how we could do anything else."

"I've been praying about it," says Oz. "I'm prayin' that the Lord'll work something out. What I want to do is hopefully have somebody to help find a real cool church in the area we play and be able to direct a lot of these kids to go there. I was hoping that someday we'd be able to have a real cool Stryper tract and in whatever town we were in, somebody would be in charge of stampin' 'em with the address to a certain church or something. As the Lord leads, man. We haven't been able to do that lately. The production costs and stuff really are high. It's hard sometimes. What's neat is there's been a lot of Christians come to our shows from churches in towns and they would help us with ministry and follow-up."

"It's a miracle to be in this music business and see people accepting Christ."

"That's what I would hope for: every place we go that the Christians that know the battle and know what we're tryin' to do will come to the shows and would intervene. If I come to a Christian show like this—I wouldn't call it a Christian show, it's a rock show with the band talking about Christ. If I saw some guy holding his lighter up, I'd say, 'Hey, what do you think of this band? What do you think of what they're sayin'?' and maybe invite that person to church. That's what it's all about. We're just four guys. We can't go out and meet the masses. We can't talk to each and every person. We only have so much time and we have to go to the next town. We've gotta sometimes drive 600 to 700 miles to get to the next place."

**What kind of miracles have you guys seen?

"I'll tell ya," says Robert, "it's a miracle in and of itself to be in this music business and see people accept Christ. See people influenced to think about accepting Christ through hearing rock 'n' roll music. To me, that's a miracle."

"I've seen different things too," says Tim. "The other night there was a girl who was possessed. She came up to me and Oz and wanted to escape, to get away from everything, all the pressures. I guess she had a boyfriend who was into the occult and whatever. Me and Oz prayed over her and believed she was delivered from all that. That's like some of the everyday-type things that we've seen go on. There's other examples of people, who, for some reason or another, want to commit suicide. They listen to the message in the music and it helps them out. It helps them to change their mind."

**What's it like when someone you don't know comes up to you and says, "We love you, Oz. We pray for you."?

"I feel like I've got some friends out there," Oz answers. "I've got some real brothers and sisters out there that are prayin' for me. That's neat. I really feel uplifted by that. It's really cool. It's nice to see that the Christian community is behind us like that."

**What's the concept behind your uniform on the THWTD tour?

"Everyone wanted to have a different scripture to go under their name and a different idea," says Oz. "I had this suit that was like a suit that put me into a spiritual dimension. Spirits live in a different dimension. They can walk through walls and stuff. The scripture I used was Ephesians 6:10, about how we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but principalities and powers of darkness. That suit was going to put me in a different dimension. I had my guitar and Bible and, if you look around me, there is really strange lights and smoke on the bottom. It is my idea of battling those spiritual powers of darkness. That was my concept of it."

**What direction do you see your music going from here?

"Well, Stryper's music will always be Stryper," says Oz. "The music is going to be pretty much the same. Michael was talking to me about making the next album a little bit heavier, just because a lot of people are missing that heavy sound we used to have as opposed to IGWT, with a more pop sound and more polished sound. Myself, I have always been into just real heavy tunes."

**Robert, I know you've caught a bunch of flack about your pose on the back of IGWT. What is your comment on that?

"Actually, how that pose came about was that I was reaching back on the back of my shoulder, because my hair had gotten tangled up in one of the chains. I didn't know that our photographer, Neil, was gonna shoot the shot. I was looking into the camera as I was reaching back and he snapped the photo."

"I've heard, in my opinion, a couple of very stupid Christian people make the comment of, 'Well, I don't think that looks good.' Think about this: If you go to the beach, don't you see more at the beach than on the back of our album cover? I've thought about that a lot. It just seems like sometimes people make such a big deal out of somethin' that's nothin'. I don't know, it was actually a mistake I guess, but it just happened to be the photo I liked the best. All the other ones didn't look that good to me, so I picked it."

Stay tuned next issue for more Stryper hype, where Tim and Robert did some reviewing/rating of a few Christian metal singles I played 'em. **HM**

Metal Tracks

Some of you may have noticed that I am writing a "Metal Tracks"-type column in CCM now. Check it out. Because CCM is published monthly, you'll get fresher material by reading it there. Now let's just get Vengeance on the cover...

For those of you who'd like to pick up the infamous Victory tape...the same tape that influenced Holy Soldier to hire Steve Patrick as their singer...Guitarist Sean O'Donnell is quite the axeman too...Send \$5 to: Victory, PO Box 752171, Memphis TN 38175, Attn: Sean O'Donnell.

Ozmothoq is a band that's been in prayer for over a year before they've ever played out in the Ohio area! Stay tuned...

Enigma has decided not to release the live tracks **Barren Cross** recorded. Mike Lee plans on cutting a few tracks on the thrash compilation album with the Mike Lee Band. Jim LaVerde will play bass and Glen Mancuso of Vengeance will play drums. Look for it out on Intense later. Maybe later this summer.

Vengeance had a big gig in February at a local high school where 40 to 45 people responded to an altar call. "Human Sacrifice" will now be released on compact disc!!

Josh Kramer has left Saint. He's joining forces with Scott Sifton, formerly of Contagious. The name is still up in the air. Max Clark has stepped in to take the vocals position for Saint.

Deliverance has booked their studio time in early April, so maybe by summer's end we'll have their debut album. Bill Metoyer is producing it. He produced the first and second Slayer records, the last Flotsem & Jetsam, D.R.I., and Sacred Reich.

Metal Tracks continued on page 14

Leviticus: New Wine From Sweden



Photo copyright © Hanno Vitta

Leviticus and Bloodgood toured Europe this fall. The following interview with founder and guitarist, Bjorn Stigsson, includes his plans during and after the tour, as well as his perspective of Europe.

Bjorn smiled a lot during Leviticus' blazing set in Omaha this September. They all looked like they were having lots of fun.

"I have a lot of fun when I'm on-stage. I think that Christian bands ought to show that we have fun, because we have fun. I work for the Lord."

****Some people would say that the Lord is very serious and when you work for the Lord, it's very solemn and very hard work and there's no time for fun, because there's too much work to be done. How would you respond to that?**

"Rejoice in the Lord...always. This band works very hard. We have the real joy from the Lord in us. I want to show that it's a joy to serve the Lord and be a Christian. It's hard and tough too. We can break down the evil, because we have a joy in the Lord."

****The joy of the Lord is your strength.**

"It's my life."

****I work in a Christian bookstore and I talk to people who oppose Christian rock music. One thing they bring up a lot is, "Look at the pictures of these guys. They look real mean. They don't look like the joy of the Lord is on them." How would you answer to that?**

"One thing: I think that Christian heavy metal bands are too tough and too hard in the photos. It's my feeling. I think it's another thing when you go out to secular shows. I think maybe on some photos we're too hard and tough, maybe. I don't know. It's very hard to explain that to other Christians who don't like rock and roll music. They say, 'I don't like the clothes and I don't like this...'"

Leviticus played about 30 shows with Bloodgood, some of which were in Europe's darkest spots, like Germany and Holland. "We began in Finland and then Sweden and Norway, then Holland, England, Germany, Italy, and Austria.

"When we're on stage and see people, I think the Holy Ghost is very strong and breaks it down and we can reach them with the gospel. I think it's gonna break down more and more. They may come home with a Bloodgood or Leviticus record and, after listening, may change.

"I received a word from God that we're going to reach people outside the

church, who the church didn't reach. Leviticus is going to travel around the whole world. I think many of the hard rock/heavy metal groups are the same. I think these groups reach people easier, because of the music.

"Europe is a big area for us and Jerusalem, because you don't have many Christians in Europe. We put the devil down under our feet.

"I think when we go out to Europe, we must be very straight with the Word and give the people the Word from God. It's very tough in Europe, especially in Germany and Holland. In Holland, Satan has his church there. Amsterdam is a terrible town with drugs and things.

"In Germany many people are interested in the black side. We have that in Sweden too. Different religions are there also. It's very important for us to show 'em Jesus, because they're searching a lot. I don't understand why people are interested in the black side. I can't understand that, because people want to be loved and want to have freedom. I think it's a very important message to give the world today: the love from God. It is really true. God loves people and every person wants to be loved. Jesus really loves everyone. I want everyone to feel that God loves them and wants to set them free. I think people want to be free from everything. There's only one way: Jesus Christ."

****Tell me about your recent tours.**

"In the latest tour in Europe (last spring), we've seen many people come to Christ. I'm very glad about that, because I want to see people to be free from the devil. The devil has the power over too many teenagers in the whole world through the music. It's nice to see that Jesus is bigger and the strongest power. We see more and more people set free. I write in our fan club newsletter and we talk to people after our show and they receive Jesus."

****How do the churches help you follow-up or disciple the people that get saved at your concerts?**

"We write to every church in every place and when we have some people who get saved, we write to the church and tell them that they are saved. It's a small problem in Sweden, because some of the church don't like our ministry and our music. They don't want to help us. We have many new churches who help us. We have a newsletter called 'Leviticus Magazine' and we send it to everyone who receives Jesus. I think we must have more help from the church, so when some of the people fall, they won't fall off. That's a big problem.

"I think one of the problems is: the teenagers today dress in another way, they have long hair, and some of the church don't like that. They think that it's a sin to have long hair. They come to the church in jeans and long hair and they face problems."

****Tell us about some of the new songs you've written.**

"One of the songs is called 'Over The Hills (Across The Lands)'. It tells about the white light that comes from God, which goes around and tells the news and sets people free. We're fighting side by side.

"I have a little 4-channel cassette player at home with a synthesizer and a drum machine. I play all the instruments and sing the whole meter. When I come home, I'm going to begin to write more songs. I have many ideas."

By the time you read this, Leviticus should be finished recording their new album. "We'll probably be in the studio for two months. The album should be out in February, and we'll tour in support of it right away. We're going to work very hard in the studio with the next album. Peo has his own 24-track studio. The next album is very important for Leviticus.

"I think the new songs are more melodic, with more harmonies. Some of it's hard with bass and drums, but it sounds more melodic. Maybe it'll be more commercial. I think we'll try to come out to the secular world with something. We'll work on that. We need a hit song. Every band needs that to sell more records. Peo is also a good songwriter. He writes more music than lyrics."



Bjorn jammin' in Omaha.

Photo  Karen Loke.

****Is melodic metal one of your favorite styles?**

"Yeah, right now. Leviticus has changed from the beginning. We played more heavy metal on 'The Strongest Power' album. I think the music in a lot of bands have changed. I think we must hang on. I think the Christian music ought to be ahead of the secular music. If you listen to all the hard rock and heavy metal groups today--Def Leppard, TNT, and the new groups--they play another kind of metal music. I want to have Leviticus out in the world and not only the Christian market. We must work very hard to find good songs with good choruses and good sound with drums and synthesizers."

****The music on "I Shall Conquer" was really heavy and had a bass-heavy low end. Was the music you played before you**

were saved real heavy also?

"Yes, but in the 70's I listened to a lot of symphonic rock, like Genesis, Yes, Kansas, Boston, and Journey. In the middle of the 70's the big group for me was Genesis. The first hard rock group for me was Deep Purple's album, 'Made In Rock'. The same sort of hard rock that Deep Purple played in the 70's is very popular today, if you think of Whitesnake and Deep Purple today. They have an organ sound and guitar riffs. I think the organ sound is coming back. If you listen to Europe's latest, they use organ very much. I like that sound, because it's very heavy. I like the sound of the organ and the guitar together. We'll be using that."

****Why did Terry H. and Ez Gomer leave?**

"We worked together last summer.

We think different about the music. We worked together and we had nothing more together to give, so we talked about it and thought it best to do that. We're very good friends. I saw them at the Summer Festival (Jet Circus, their new band). They're a really good band. Terry H. is a really good singer. He has a very good heart. They play another kind of music. It's a new music. Maybe something like Def Leppard. It's hard to explain how they sound. Terry is a great guitarist too. They are a three-piece. When I met Terry he was a guitarist."

**When you record, do you lay down individual tracks or do you play live together in one room?

"We record it when we play bass, guitar, and drums. I have a "Rockman" and we take it out (The bass and guitar are scratch), then we may do the bass and synthesizer. Then we get to work on the vocals and maybe lead guitar."

**Tell me about Niklas.

"He comes from a town in Sweden called Jonkoping. It's not far from where we live. I first met him last Spring. We talked a little and had prayed. When Hakan began to play with us again one year ago, he already said he wanted to go to Bible school, so it was not a new thing this summer when Hakan left the band. When he said he wanted to enroll in Bible school, I called Niklas. He came to me and we prayed together and we played together and we felt it was right, so we came to work together. He had left everything in Jonkoping to play with the group. He's a very good boy. He's nice, loves the Lord and he wants to give his whole life for the Lord. God spoke to him and prophesied that he would minister 100% for God. I heard that two or three weeks ago. It was two different prophecies in two different places.

"I really like him. We had a lot of fun together: Peo; Niklas; Kjell; and I. It's very important for a band also to have fun together. We have fun without a band too. It's important that we can have that joy together.

"Niklas maybe has been on stage only 20 or 30 times before. He plays stylistically between Ez and Hakan. Ez played with lots of virtuosity, while Hakan played more straight-forward.

"Peo is a very good musician. He plays good on guitar, good on keyboard, good on drums, and good on bass. He was born as a musician. His mother is a very good keyboard player and singer."

"I have sort of been a fourth member of the band since they started," says Peo, "so it was very natural for me to step in. I didn't really think about it much. I just stepped in." He had helped out on some of their earlier songs and has produced Bjorn's last two albums.

Royal Music, Leviticus' label in Sweden, has worked together with Bloodgood on their European tour. Bloodgood plans to

return the favor by getting Frontline to cooperate when Leviticus comes to the States this year to continue this hot double-bill.

**What needs to happen, as far as promoters, for you to tour America?

"I think the biggest problem is that you can't buy the record in the stores. People have written us a lot about not being able to find 'Setting Fire To The Earth' in the store. I think we'd lose money because of that if we tour. I want to have the records out in stores. We wanted to tour the U.S. this Spring."

**What is your impression of America?

"We really love your country, especially Peo."

"I want everyone to feel that God loves them and wants to set them free."

**Why do you like it?

"Because people are more open. In Europe it's hard and tough. I think it's hard and tough here too, but I think it's more open to God in America. I feel that when I come here. I think you have a lot of demonic oppression in Germany, Holland and Denmark.

"I think our tour in Europe is gonna be a war. It's gonna be tough. Demons scream when God's people preach the gospel. God is bigger, so they must back off."

Bjorn played his guitar accompanied by his own tapes earlier this summer at Omaha's Camp Kitaki. Several hundred kids ate it up.

"It was the first time I had played to tapes. It was really good. I played 'Flames Of Fire', 'Stand Up', and 'Gonna Rock'. The crowd really loved it."

**How does the crowd effect you? I know musicians feed off the energy from the crowd.

"If the crowd is very excited, the musician's feelings rise and it's easier to play. It's more exciting. It can be very hard to play if the crowd isn't so excited, because you must give so much from the stage."

Pure Metal Records renewed their U.S. distribution contract with Leviticus and will be making "Setting Fire..." and "Together With Friends" readily available in the U.S. (Finally!)

A special thanks go out to Leviticus and their "...Forces Fan Club". They mail all the Scandinavian subscribers their new Heaven's Metal each issue, saving Heaven's Metal about \$80 in air mail postage. **HM**

Metal Tracks continued:

Benson will again release a "Hot Metal Summer" cassette with interviews of their metal bands. Last year's roster was Bloodgood, BC, Stryper, and Shout. Look for Gardian to be on it. Maybe even Vengeance, Deliverance, and Sacred Warrior will be on it. What? You say? Intense Records has been bought out by Frontline. Caesar Kalinowski will continue to run the happenin' label, with Bloodgood added to his roster.

It looks like the Medusa/Enigma distribution of Intense product ought to be happenin' this Spring.

Spectra has purchased distribution rights for Regency product. Pure Metal signed another contract with Royal Music, giving them the rights to Leviticus and Bjorn Stigsson's hot product.

Darrell Mansfield has signed a deal with Ocean Records, the same label Rez just signed up with. It'll probably be heavy blues, which should please headbangers and blues-mongers alike.

Oz Fox joined Guardian onstage at LA's The Roxy for an encore of "World Without Love", from their new album. 700 people packed the club as Guardian ripped through much of their new material. They even played Stryper's "The Way", which had the crowd singin' along.

Guardian, you may have noticed, has changed the spelling of their name. Guitarist Tony Palacio can be heard jamming on Crystal Lewis' new single, "Come Together".

One Bad Pig had a record release party here in Austin March 3rd. A pretty big crowd showed up to eat Pig cake and talk to the band. The Pig is now being booked by Jim Palosaari. For bookings, call (503) 488-1005. Other acts Jim books are Whitecross and Sacred Warrior.

Zion's single, "Is It A Crime?", has received some of the best listener response ever for a Christian rock single. Zion's full length album, "Thunder From The Mountain", is recorded and packaged and waiting for the right distribution deal. Pray.

Barren Cross appeared on the Morton Downey show this March, representing the "good guys of rock". BC will be starting their new tour as you read this. Stryper just returned to Japan for a series of concerts. Many of their Northwest USA concerts were cancelled due to Michael coming down with the flu, as many of you unfortunately know.

Cornerstone promises to have some hot metal again this year. Bloodgood, Rez, Sacred Warrior, Vengeance, Bride, Tempest, Shout, One Bad Pig, and Darrell Mansfield.

Bride will enter the studio in June for their third album, called "Silence Is Madness". Dale promises a wider range of musical styles than "Live To Die" and tackling a lot more social issues in their lyrics. Rosanna's Raiders are mixing their second album, "Clothed In Fire". The question is, will it be on Refuge or

David Zaffiro says hello to a solo career. (Photo--Roger Riveland)
Jon Sproule departs Whitecross for Bible College. (Photo by Herman Schulze)



Pure Metal.

Pure Metal is hosting the New Talent Stage at this year's Cornerstone Fest. Twelve of the best garage, metal, thrash, punk, dance, and weird bands will compete in two categories: metal; and alternative (anything other than metal). Winners in each category will receive a recording contract with Pure Metal or Refuge. To enter, send: a three-song demo tape with your best song first; a lyric sheet for each song enclosed; at least three references (one from a pastor who knows the band, the other two should be performance references, like promoters, clubs, etc.); and bio material, including a photo (with a phone number of the contact person). All material must be original! The judging criteria at the fest will be: appearance and stage presence; songwriting ability; sound/mix; musicianship and skill; and overall continuity. All auditioning material must be in the Cornerstone Fest office by May 6th. Finalists will be notified by June 6, 1989. Send to: Cornerstone '89 Festival, 4707 N. Malden, Chicago IL 60640. (312) 989-6330.

Intense will be conducting seminars at Cornerstone in conjunction with Frontline. Topics like: the validity of a national ministry versus a local ministry; what the industry is looking for in a band; and other areas of interest for the underground. Continuous press and autograph parties with more than a

dozen bands will be the big rage.

Trytan's "SylenTiger" album production has been tentatively pushed back.

Doug Mann and R.E.X. Records have signed a distribution deal with Spring Arbor for the upcoming Believer release, called "Extraction From Mortality". Doug threw in a few tricks in the studio for this album, including some live violins and violas for some of the song intros.

The Lead will enter Criteria Studio in Miami this May to record a 15-song album, also on R.E.X.

The Metal Fest '89 will take place in Decatur, Illinois on Saturday, June 10th. It looks like Bride and Torah will perform. Pure Metal will also run their New Talent Stage here. Same entry rules apply, just send 'em to 433 Carol Manor, Decatur IL 62526. (217) 875-5963.

Regency Records just signed Watchmen.

David Zaffiro and Mark Welling have left Bloodgood! David has signed a album contract as a solo artist with Frontline. An album should be out, maybe, by year's end (just a guess). Kevin Whisler of Watchmen has replaced Mark on the drumkit. Bloodgood has found a guitarist by the name of Doug Austin to help fill David's shoes, and they're looking for a second axeman to sport a double-guitar

sound. They recently hooked up with Denny Vosburgh for band management. Denny used to manage Alice Cooper and Debra Harrie of Blondie.

Speaking of personnel changes, God laid it on Jon Sproule's heart to go into formal Bible training for a Youth Pastor position. Rick Armstrong has picked up the bass where Jon left off and Whitecross is rollin'. They just joined forces with a huge lighting production for the rest of their "Hammer And Nail" tour.

From Indiana comes Tsaba, which is Hebrew for "to mass, assemble, fight, perform, and to wage war upon." Heavy tunes with actual melody are promised. To contact 'em, write: Todd Shown, 3009 Simcoe Dr, Ft. Wayne IN 46815.

Larry Norman's "Home At Last"! I'm so glad. It is Benson's "Rock Spotlight" for April, with bargain prices.

Chris Yambar has opened Artatak Studios with partner Gary Smith to offer the public professional art and graphics. Chris is offering his talents to any and all interested Christian bands. He has a special deal to offer you if you inquire. Serious inquiries can be made by calling (216) 743-5513 or 799-1037.

What? More personnel changes? Yes. Phil Galicia and Efrain Galicia are no longer playing for Paradox. The band is currently auditioning bass players and drum-

mers. Phil and Efrain will continue to rock. The German band Paradox may give the band some legal hassles, since their vinyl is now being imported into the States. Stay tuned for more details.

Drumroll please...Here's the Dove Award nominees for the metal category.

Metal Recorded Song Of The Year: "Breakaway" by Rosanna's Raiders; "Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent" by Jerusalem; "Enough Is Enough" by Whitecross; "In God We Trust" by Stryper; and "Shout" by Shout.

Metal Album Of The Year: "Hammer And Nail" by Whitecross; "In God We Trust" by Stryper; "It Won't Be Long" by Shout; "Rock In A Hard Place" by Bloodgood; and "Silence Screams" by Rez.

Alliance is booking concerts for the Spring and Summer in the South Carolina/Virginia area. Call Lonnie at (803) 794-1223 or 794-3372.

Sanxtion is a new band getting started in Pittsburgh. You can write and order their four-song demo at: 9400 David Dr, Pittsburgh PA 15237.

Double Edged is another new band from Little Rock. They're willing to travel beyond the Arkansas area. If interested, call Kent Byers at (501) 664-9369. Write the band at: Ransom, Inc. 1806 N. Tyler, Little Rock AR 72207.

Roxway made their debut at the recent Guardian gig at LA's The Roxy. They're gonna play at the Chuck Landis' Country Club on June 16th with Holy Soldier. You can contact Roxway at: PO Box 60653, Pasadena CA 91106. (818) 449-3292.

Gordon Kennedy of Whiteheart recently signed an endorsement agreement with Gibson Guitar Company. Gordon's dad used to have a similar agreement with Gibson over 20 years ago. Gordon picked up a Chet Atkins CE model as part of the agreement. Gibson Vice President Paul Jernagin, said, "The growth of contemporary Christian music has been impressive, and we feel that Whiteheart is one of the best examples in that field. We're proud to be a part of it. This is the second involvement Gibson has had with CCM. Neon Cross has a similar arrangement with the company.

The "Eye Of The Needle" is Dallas' new hotspot for original live Christian music. April dates are: 4/1 One Bad Pig and Summoned; 4/14 Barren Cross and 70 Times 7. Future bookings should include: Whitecross; Idle Cure; Mad At The World; Judson Spence; and The Altar Boys. For more info, call (214) 954-0432.

Stryken's Stephen Streiker recorded "A Dark Day In Texas" in response to the Dallas Cowboys' firing their only coach--Tom Laundry. It's a really good ballad lamenting "what they done to Tom, is wrong/ and what they done to Tom, they done to us all." The Austin tv stations had news spots with Stephen in the studio. If you'd like a copy, send \$4 to: PDW, PO Box 778, Cedar Park TX 78613. Stephen's mom has been diagnosed

as having cancer of the lymph nodes. Please pray for Phyllis Hopkins to be healed.

Tom Laundry is a good guy. I got his autograph five years ago for my dad and I wrote "Jesus Is Lord" across the page. When he saw it, he looked up and said, "I agree!"

John Elefante produced the new Leviticus album. The proposed Leviticus/Bloodgood tour may have to wait awhile. Maybe in the fall...

Late breaking news: Heaven's Metal buttons are here! One and a half inch diameter buttons with the old HM logo and the "Worship At Full Volume" slogan are featured on yellow, turquoise, and red. They are \$1 each plus 25 cents postage. Order one with your poll results!

Record Reviews

Recommendations this issue go to: "California Metal 2"; "State Of Control" by Barren Cross; "In Your Face" by Shout; "Rage Of Angels"; "First Watch" by Guardian; "Eye Of The Storm" by Tempest; "The Axemen"; "White Metal Invasion"; and Charizma's new demo.

Reviewers this issue are: Doug Van Pelt; Brian Quincy Newcomb; and Caroline Knox.

"California Metal 2" - Various

This album is an improvement over the groundbreaking "Cal Metal" album, offering a cohesive direction of melodic metal.

Vision, who used to be Malachia--and will probably be something else by the time you read this, debut their "new" sound here, which is downright excellent. They've meshed their technical keyboard sound with high-pitched operatic singing and melodic guitar riffs. "Runaway" is the start for something very new and very good for this band.

Emerald makes their national debut with "Traitor" and "Born To Die", two gutsy and passionate songs. Sounds like the band has polished their attack some since their "Armed For Battle" custom album 2 1/2 years ago.

"Light The Fire" by Recon does it for me. It has brilliant high-pitched guitar screams and Vett Robert's piercing vocals. He reminds me of Helloween's lead vocalist on "Light The Fire", especially when he enunciates each word in the line: "Oh, can't you see His light, my friend?" This song and "Dreams" are my two favorite songs on this album. The chorus of "Dreams" sound big and full, just like recent Kiss. This band has something to offer! John and Dino Elefante did a great job getting the tight sound of this band down.

John and Dino released some more of their excellent material on this volume. "Get Up" has the most immaculate production here. John's voice glides out of the speakers like clouds over a mountain. The keyboards have a golden touch. Hot stuff! This band could, should, must get massive secular airplay.

Soldier finally gets some vinyl recognition, which their professional sound deserves. "Borderline", one of their old standards, shows up here, as well as "Tears". An impressive debut of the band for those who've never heard Soldier. These guys have "Californian fun metal" written all over 'em. Reminds me of Van Halen's early material.

Judea delivers a powerful blend of harmonic notes and pounding drums on "Heart Of Stone"; and rocks heavy on "Born To Die", which features an articulate message about the purpose Jesus fulfilled while here on earth.

The first few times I heard Ransom, I thought, "Wow, this singer's voice is so high that it sounds like a girl." The verses and chorus remind me of Cinderella. Come to find out that the vocalist sounds so much like a girl that she is one. What do ya know? Reading the lyric sheet really helps, huh? Anyway, Lisa Faxon shows that girls can sing metal--and sing it great! This is the first radio single off the album, and ought to attract lots of attention.

Overall, this album is a must for metalheads, as was the first "California Metal". Pastor Bob Beeman, who chose the roster, decided to give it the melodic direction since they were going to release a compilation thrash album this year.

--DV

"10 Years After" - Jerusalem

Here's a "greatest hits" package from Swedish veterans, Jerusalem. At least two songs were picked from each of their albums: "Volume One"; "Volume Two"; "Warrior"; "Can't Stop Us Now"; "In His Majesty's Service"; "Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent"; (Notice how the album titles keep getting longer? Maybe they should've called this one "A brief look at the last ten years of a Christian band called Jerusalem.") and even three cuts from lead singer Ulf Christiansson's solo album, "In My Dreams".

The highlight of this package for me will be having "The Wind Is Blowing" on cd. I can't understand, though, why "Sodom" was not chosen for this album. It is undoubtedly a classic song. Anyone who's heard it would probably agree. It's probably their best song ever! Also left off "Warrior" were "Man Of This World" and "Ashes In Our Hands". Instead of putting the live version of "Time" in this collection, the rare studio version from the now out-of-print "Front Row" various artist album could've been here, making this a real collector's item.

We are treated to some vintage photographs, though, which are amusing. "Covered By Blood", which is on the Swedish version of the "Dancing..." cd, is featured here.

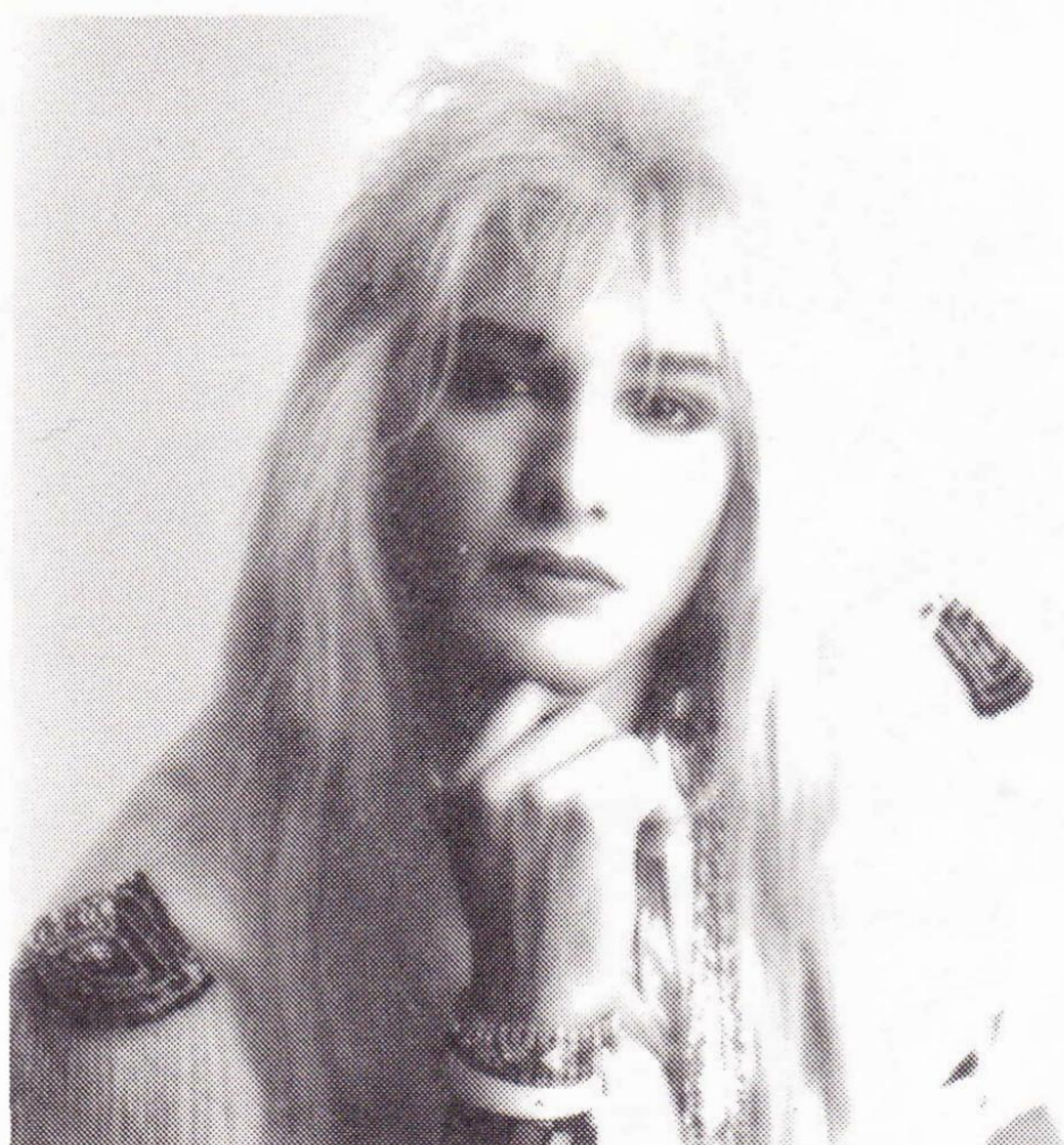
Jerusalem's first two albums (which were originally sung in Swedish and then translated to English) and Ulf's solo album leave a little to be desired in the song composition, performance, and production department.

Reviews continued on page 21



Paradox pictured left to right: Manual Castillo on microphones; Efrain Galicia on drums; Fernando Hernandez on guitar; and Phil Galicia on bass.

Paradox photo credits: Photo this page by Liz Vidaurri; Photos in each corner of the centerfold by Liz Vidaurri; and the other four photos in the centerfold are by Herman Schulze.



PARA





ROCK





Efrain "Tommy Lee Look-Alike" Galicia pounding away.

(Photo: Liz Vidaurri)



Fernando Hernandez.

(Photo by Liz Vidaurri)



Paradox with Barren Cross and 61-year old promoter, Blanch Pall.

Reviews continued:

ments--one exception being "Like A Thief In The Night" from "In My Dreams". "Warrior", in my opinion, was the turning point for Jerusalem, and was probably the best Christian hard rock album at the time. The year was 1982, and no Christian artist had really put out an album with a consistent hard rock/metal sound. The only thing close at the time were Rez's first three albums. Jerusalem opened for Rez at this time also (Okay, enough history lessons...) creating the first real metal bill in Christian music. Jerusalem had more of a bluesy sound at the time, kind of like Thin Lizzy and early Whitesnake.

All that to say this: If you've never heard any of Jerusalem's early material, check this out. Try to get ahold of "Warrior" if at all possible through underground mail-order buying and trading.

--DV

"Smash" - One Bad Pig

It takes a lot of jowls to name your band "One Bad Pig" if you expect to be taken seriously as anything but a novelty band. "A Christian Banned", the band's independently released six-song EP, was taken seriously by a small committed group of hardcore, thrash and garage metal fans who could relate to the urgency of their evangelistic concerns and who delighted in the band's unpretentious raw sound. While OBP was fortunate to avoid a copyright suit over the KSHE pig, a St. Louis radio mascot, and their self-deprecating humor (they named their record company "Porky's Demise") revealed they knew a good joke when they saw one, it was clear that they meant what they said and what they played in their songs. However, with "A Christian Banned" long out of print and two years with nary a squeal, it seemed certain that One Bad Pig would be a footnote in the history of Christian rock which might read: Novelty punk band, a flash in the bar-b-que pit.

Of course, the release of "Smash", One Bad Pig's major label debut on Pure Metal, changes all that. Fast, intense, and to-the-point OBP's lead squealer Carey "Kosher" Womack and Paul Q-Pek, the chief guitar spanker, deliver on all the expected energy and gusto that two years of hype can create, while new rhythm section Streak Wheeler on bass and Phillip Owens on drums keep the bottom end fat and rock steady. The overall effect is that of a tight band seeking to extend beyond the confines of simple garage punk, but without the musicianship or desire to become a slick metal package. "Smash", as a result, relies on a variety of heavy, hard rock approaches and rhythms tending toward speed. While accent is seldom on technique, Q-Pek proves to be a fine player on tracks like "People Cry Out" and "Frat Rats". Kosher brings a full range of emotions to his vocal howl this time out and the band is tight, aggressive and, well, bad.

The real surprise, and some of the fun, is the album's producer Billy Smiley.

That's right, the guy from Whiteheart, known primarily for creating clean, commercial, polished pop/rock and more than a few sweet ballads, was behind the boards on this one, and brought along a few of his friends for the fun: WH's Gordon Kennedy plays guitar solos on "Godarchy" and "Kingdom Come"; Dale Oliver, of Geoff Moore's band, adds a solo to "Smash The Guitar"; and Ric Florian and Chris McHugh, both of Whiteheart, add BGV's and percussion, respectively. My best guess is that this worked like a businessman's holiday, with the WH boys getting out all the grit and feedback that got erased off "Don't Wait For The Movie" and "Emergency Broadcast" and taking a lost weekend before recording their next one with Brown "Whitebread" Bannister.

Anyway, the Pig's music is still intact, with Smiley giving them a punchy, full-blast stereo sound that lets the songs stand on their own merits, and stand up they do. "Godarchy", "Isaiah Six", and "Blow And Go" all are reworked to fine results. While the remainder speak to Christians and non-Christians alike about issues of great importance. "Don't Be Fooled" warns against those who tell us lies to divert our path toward God, "Smash The Guitar" destroys the American cult of idolatry and materialism, while "Frat Rats" attacks any exclusive system and "I'm Not Getting Any Older" reports on the blessings of life in Christ. The trick is "Let's Be Frank", which deals with the war between belief and cynicism in the world, and I was just getting used to the importance of being earnest. Anyway, if I had to grade "Smash" on a one-to-ten scale, I'd give One Bad Pig a 7 for effort and artistic intent, and for jowls they'd rate a 9.99.

--BQN

"State Of Control" - Barren Cross

BC is back with another killer record. This one is BC-ness as usual--loud, dark, crunchin', heavy, heavy metal. Mike Lee's powerful voice rocks with authority as the low end of the rhythm section pounds out the heavy beat. Ray Parris shows some improvement in his leads, adding more feeling in his fingers.

The lyrical content deals with the issues of child abuse, bigotry, runaways, heartbreak/dating relationships, the rapture, and lying tongues.

"Stage Of Intensity" is an awesome song, beginning with some classical guitar that flies into 90-miles-an-hour thrash. BC is a tight metal outfit, and this song proves it. It could be the first legitimate thrash tune with keyboards. It sounds like those "Horse Pedals" that Jim LaVerde likes to use (This is an inside joke about a misprint Heaven's Metal ran about Jim's equipment in Issue #16--We called Taurus Pedals "Horse Pedals."). Mike Lee has a great voice for really heavy metal, thrash included.

"Out Of Time" is about the rapture, where Jesus returns and those in Him are

caught up in the air. The song opens with an audio portion from the popular prophecy movie series "Thief In The Night", where a news broadcaster announces that millions of people "have just disappeared."

"Cryin' Over You" is one of the two commercial metal numbers, meaning giant, polished gang BGV's. Thank John and Dino Elefante for the clean production job throughout. The other commercial number is "Hard Lies", which should garner some airplay on secular rock stations. It's got a good hook in the chorus and a couple really hot leads by Ray.

"Two Thousand Years" is a bold proclamation of the Gospel: "2,000 years ago there came a Man/ a Man Who was hated and loved, worshiped and killed/ but what was this Man all about? What did He do? For to me to live is Christ, to die is gain/ there's no other name for which I'm saved/ I've got the power, it's in my sight/ 'cause with Him I'm not afraid to die/ Now I will disclose His name, it's Jesus Christ..."

"Now I must warn you/ they'll tell you you don't need God/ They are the foolish/ and they are the ones who will burn and rot in hell/ but if you accept Him/ you'll be born again, do it now..."

"If you confess with your mouth/ that Jesus is Lord/ If you believe in your heart/ God raised Him from the dead/ then you will be saved and forgiven/ you just have to ask/ He'll never leave nor forsake you/ His promise is fact." It's hard to find a meter in that, but Mike pulls it off with speed.

"Inner War" is an honest look at the battle between the Spirit and our flesh. "I'm gonna scream, I'm gonna shout/ I'm the one that wins without a doubt/ the victory's mine in this state of war/ I won't be a slave to sin no more." One line in here is funny: "When I don't sin, baby I'm satisfied."

"Love At Full Volume" is another godly love song in the vein of "Heaven Or Nothing", except that it's a cruncher. There's no ballads on this tape.

This album is hot. It took me two listens to really start getting into the tunes, but I was immediately struck by the sizzling musicianship. These four definitely have their chops down now. I can't wait to hear these songs live.

Turn it up and it'll move you.

--DV

"In Your Face" - Shout

This is the album we've been waiting for Shout to do. Forget holding back and playing it safe, let out all the stops and go for broke! Shout is back and they're definitely in your face!

This is like Van Halen meets Foreigner. It's fast, punchy, melodic, and out of control. Chuck King and Ken Tamplin are cuttin' loose on this one, leaving a trail of broken guitar strings in the studio. I'm sure of it.

"Borderline" kicks off the album with tons of energy and never lets up until it's over. There's enough commercial hooks and Coverdale-type pouts to please everyone in radioland, bridging the gap between pop music and heavy metal perfectly. It's hot, dude. What can I say?

Standout cuts for me are: "Faith, Hope And Love"; "Waiting On You"; and the title track. There's not a filler song here, just one hot tune after another. "Faith, Hope And Love" has an infectious chorus that won't leave my memory. It's one of the tamer cuts, but it's got a hook that goes in deep and grabs ya.

"Getting Ready" has a cool blues-inspired riff and a gutsy vocal performance by Ken Tamplin in the call/response chorus with the rest of the band. You better believe this one's gonna be a crowd pleaser live.

Ken was nice enough to offer a timed list of all the guitar players, whose riffs grace the title track. The times listed aren't accurate, though. The first pressing had a misprint. It would've been nice to watch the cd timer and see who does which riff. It's still possible, because the players are listed chronologically. Add 33 seconds for the song intro and the times fit. The misprint was on the second to last solo. That one is by Michael Angelo, the last one being Alex Masi. The guitar hot shots appearing are: Marty Friedman; Lanny Cordola; Michael Angelo; Joey Price; Randy Hansen; and Alex Masi.

Another hot guitar tidbit is the 29-second Beethoven piece, "Moonlight Sonata (In 32nd Notes)".

"Ain't Givin' Up" is Shout's "Pay The Bills Song". It's a good song about relationships, which may afford Shout some valuable secular airplay.

Well, that's the end of this rant and rave review, and guess what? Shout didn't pay me to do this!

--DV

"First Watch" - Guardian

This long, long, long-awaited album unleashes the commercial sound of melodic metallers--Guardian. Producer Oz Fox crafted a refined, polished sound out of four very talented musicians. Tony Palacios' guitar work sings above the mix with clarity, accenting the tight drumming by Rikk Hart and the solid bass lines of David Bach. Paul Cawley's vocals are clean and have a good midrange.

"Livin' For The Promise" is a rockin' anthem telling of God's goodness and trustworthiness. "Miracle", a haunting song that used to be "Miracle Of The Galaxy", whippers along until it builds enough to explode with pounding bass drums and power chords. It settles back down and takes off again a few more times before it's over. "Saints Battalion" is a spiritual battlecry with a rousing guitar intro. Rikk exhibits some good double-bass drumming, joining with David to create a solid low end. I cranked up the bass on my stereo to

check this out, and it's tough.

"The Good Life" is a raw, bluesy hard rocker with a Guns 'n' Roses or AC-DC style rhythm. Lyrically, it's pretty upfront about the emptiness that life in the fast lane causes due to its endless pursuit of fun.

"One Of A Kind" showcases Guardian's California party-rock sound with shades of Van Halen. Oz produced a good background vocal sound throughout the album, which shines the brightest in this song.

"World Without Love" is a heavy anthem with plenty of guitar crunch and riffs. "Rock In Victory" is another anthem with a giant sing-along chorus. Guardian invites us to celebrate eternal life and "rock in victory/ no way you can lose." Tony's guitar takes off into outer space on this one. His guitar tone is hot.

Compact disc buyers get three extra special treats on this one: "Hyperdrive"; "Marching On"; and a fun club mix of "The Good Life". "Hyperdrive" is the first Guardian song I ever heard. It's a story about a girl who discovers the love of God, giving her endless energy and joy. It's got a great guitar intro with lots of delay. Oz adds some of his guitar magic to it. "Marching On" was re-recorded since it appeared on the "California Metal" album. The pace is a tad slower here, making it sound a bit crunchier than the previous version.

This album is hot and it accomplishes the awesome feat of living up to the underground buzz it's been creating for almost two years. Buy it and pray for radio exposure.

--DV

"Eye Of The Storm" - Tempest

A Coming Storm has arrived and progressed to the point where we are in the Eye Of The Storm. This turbulent Tempest has kicked up a lot of dirt and has created change.

Change. This is what has happened to Tempest, or should I say Bon Jovi? Bon Jovi? That's right. The new Tempest album is melodic metal full of commercial hooks and dry vocals a la John Bon Jovi...and throw in White Lion and Guns 'n' Roses too.

"Good-bye" is a great ballad, sounding like "When The Children Cry" by White Lion. I'm not kidding here, I mean it. There's some nice acoustic guitar picking here, along with some ebbing keyboards and emotion-packed guitar leads. J.R. Rowe has done some intensive practice on his voice and it has paid off.

"True Love", "Goin' Nowhere", and "All For One" are standout cuts. Here's some fun, Mid-western metal with raw passion and grit. It's definitely a different Tempest than their previous album let us hear. Buy it and you won't believe your ears. This album should increase their audience by leaps and bounds.

--DV



"Rage Of Angels"

It's here and it smokes. This Connecticut quartet is too hot to handle. (See Dan, I'm writing something!) Buy this album as soon as you get a chance. It's melodic, biting metal at full tilt.

"Leave You Nor Forsake You", a great message in song, starts the album with a headbang. "Reason To Rock", which previewed on the "East Coast Metal" album, keeps the pace movin' with a fast number that has singer Dan Mariano screaming his lungs out. The double guitar assault of Frank Di-Costanzo and Greg Kurtzman chop and wail with wreckless abandon without sounding loose. The rhythm section of drummer John Fowler (We're talking HOT drummer) and bassist Dale Glifort lay down a solid foundation that's relentless.

I was somewhat disappointed in the fact that the production smoothed out some of the raw energy that I heard on some of ROA's demo tapes two years ago. The production is good, but could use some mega-buck beefing up. On its own merits though, this album stands tall as a very professional metal album that's capable of mass popularity. They fit right in with the aggressive sound of Motley Crue.

"Somebody's Watching You" is a fun rocker that slows down for a bridge, where Dan says, "Ya know, everyday we take for granted/ That if we would die/ That we would go to heaven/ But what we don't realize is that one day/ We're gonna have to account for all our doin's/ So, while you're out partying and living it up/ Just remember that no matter where you go/ What you say or what you do/ Somebody's watching you!" It's the kind of thing that sobers up partyers, ya know?

"Do You Still Believe In Love" is the first single from the album, which was a good choice. It starts off with what sounds like a nice double lead guitar intro. It showcases ROA's melodic songwriting and playing, plus Dan Mariano's quality voice.

"Are You Ready For Thunder" is a power rocker with a Northeastern accent. Dan's voice has a tough edge to it here that adds a sense of conviction to the words. John's double bass drums are quaking throughout this song. Crank it up!

This album is one of the hottest Christian metal albums released, joining the

growing ranks of professionally produced music for God.

--DV

"White Metal Invasion" - Various Artists

This is an underground Christian metal collector's dream, literally. Steve Craig decided to put together a tape of underground bands to raise money for White Throne Magazine. He sent letters to several hot underground bands, some of which recorded a song just for this compilation tape. This tape shows us the potential of tapping into the underground. Steve isn't a record executive, just a radical music fan that had a vision.

It took over a year, but the vision is reality. This is a quality package with some quality tunes. Rick Hunter's color photo on the cover is the first good impression one gets of the tape, then the music makes its own statement.

Divine Right starts off with "All I Got", where Kevin Brandow's guitar outshines his voice. Chariot places "Truth" next, a hot Y&T-ish song. Emerald does a rippin' version of "Battle Ground", and Xalt puts in an excellent performance on "The Cross". 7th Angel make their big underground debut with "I Will See You In Heaven", complete with a beautiful instrumental intro called "Angels Are Calling". Armada rocks a heavy message called "Suicide" with a commercial chorus and good lyric writing.

Seraiah starts off side two with "C'mon Get Up!", a rousing rocker with lots of fun. It has some very hot jammin' on it. Full Armor makes their hot debut with "White Knights", a fast anthem with several layers of stompin' sound. Soldier bursts through the speakers with "Louder Than Hell", a solid, power-packed rocker with a good commercial edge. Taker appears with "Look Into His Eyes". Angelica remixed "Follow Me, Follow Him" from their demo tape. It's a hot commercial metal tune with tons of great guitar playin'. Apostle closes the tape with some just killer neo-classical riffing in the instrumental "Dragon Slayer" and some powerful singing in "I Am Persuaded". This song is one of the highlights from Apostle's "Hymns" tape.

This tape is an essential purchase for the serious headbanger. It shows off the potential of the Christian metal underground. This tape is available through Spring Arbor Distributors or directly from Mainstream Productions. Send \$9 check or money order to: Mainstream Productions, 8936 Sergeant Rd, Indianapolis IN 46256.

--DV

"Mystical Thieves" - Light Force

This band is being promoted as a speed metal band. While they may be a speed metal band, they're not as intense or fierce as Vengeance, Deliverance or Believer. The

vocals and looseness of the chops rate most of these tunes as garage speed metal.

Light Force is not lame, though. Most thrashers will like it, they just won't be blown away by it.

There's some nice bass chops that solo all through this debut album. There's busy drumming and crunchin' power chords too.

The title track is a hot tune, with fast rhythms and time changes. We can expect more from this band on future releases on Pure Metal.

--DV

Charizma (demo)

Charizma is one of the best unsigned bands in the world. They were my pick for the "Underground Metal" album. For your info, Regency really liked it and offered a contract, which Charizma turned down. Too bad. They signed up with a management team in LA which works with Holy Soldier, so maybe we'll see Charizma on a label soon.

"Guardian Angel" starts this tape where Charizma's last demo left off. They're playing a solid commercial metal with a good keyboard and guitar sound. Bosse Nikolausson is singing lead vocals now. His vocals are good enough to make you wonder why they were searching for a vocalist last year.

"Lost In The Night" is a standout cut, which shows the mega-potential of Charizma. It starts off with a classy finger-picking intro and then tears into some blazing hot chords.

"One Life To Live" also begins with a soft picking intro, layered over some classy keyboard sounds. It comes off with a clean, professional Def-Leppard feel to it. This song was on their demo last Spring, re-worked to much finer results. A big difference in this version than last year's is the great lead break featured in the first bridge. The keyboards of Mats Tarnfors really add a good accent to the Charizma sound.

This demo wasn't packaged like it was for sale, but I imagine they will sell copies if they receive hundreds of letters requesting it. Write 'em c/o Daniel Nordstrom, Pl. 6511 Ersmark, 902 66, UMEA, Sweden.

--DV

"Black & White" - Armada

This tape leads off with the tranquil sounds of a song called "Missing Peace", but wait--just as you're being lulled into thinking that this mellow feel will continue for awhile, the guitar is abruptly interrupted by the riveting metallic strains of "Black & White", a song which tells us to eliminate the grey in our lives and recognize things as black and white, clearly right or wrong.

The band presses on throughout the tape with the guitar-laden rockin' feel with such songs as "I Wonder Bout This World",

"Flesh 'N' Blood", and others.

"Suicide" is a powerful song, which asserts that many times the ones whom we least expect to want to commit suicide are the ones that do. "By all accounts they had it all/ until the day they fell apart/ no one knew until they took the fall/ the awesome price of a broken heart."

This is a good effort from the Michigan-based band. It's a consistently upbeat project with lyrics that show a degree of insight. For a copy, see ad this issue.

--CK

"Look Out Heaven, Here We Come" - Summoned

Here's some impressive thrash to sink your teeth into. When looking at the cover artwork, I didn't expect much. I was VERY surprised to hear tight thrash metal. The tape title is a little immature and rebellious, if you ask me, and the tape quality is low, but the music kills!

"Satan's Dead" crunches along at 99 miles an hour, while "Death And Destruction" has several tight time changes with thrash bridges for serious moshers. Wow! Talk about fast, "Fight" is intense. "Jesus Lives" closes this five-song tape with a rad instrumental.

These guys are opening for One Bad Pig on April 1st in Dallas. They have a real talent to reach into the speed and death metal genre with the life of Jesus. Their lyrics are blunt and Bible-based.

If you want to hear some good Christian thrash, send \$6 to: Summoned, 3714 Downs Way, Garland TX 75040.

--DV

"To Kill Evil" - Stone Vengeance

With a title like "To Kill Evil", one expects some powerful molten metal with lots of speed. Stone Vengeance delivers on all expectations. This band is a tight speed metal trio. Michael Coffey has a good voice with a solid mid to high range.

Michael is the lead guitarist also, who leads this trio with ripping riffs and power chords. Darren Tompkins manhandles the drumkit, while Anthony Starks adds a tight bass line.

For what it's worth, I feel kind of uneasy about the lyrics on this project. "Time Is At Hand", along with most of the lyrics, are geared straight at the unbeliever: "Your time is at hand/ All your life was living a lie...face your deeds/ now is your time to die...and it is written/ there shall be no rest for the wicked/ ha, ha, ha."

We're talking death metal here, folks, with a wrath of God message. "The Persecution" talks about "persecution in the final days" and declares that "Heavenly Father, Jehovah, rules!"

"Bullfight" is a hot Latin instrumen-

tal preceding "Malice", where "Stone Vengeance unleashed" is shouted as the band screams in mock terror before they fly into some serious thrash. Later, Mike proclaims that "Jesus Christ, our Master, died on Calvary/ The evil one was present, watching our Master bleed...Until the final conflict/ where God will take control."

To order, write: Mike Coffey, PO Box 880153, San Francisco CA 94188-0153.
--DV

"The Axemen" - Various Artists

Novella, Novella, Novella. Pure Metal has discovered a repentant Journey. Jonathan Pagano has a great, great voice in the Steve Perry class. This is a commercially viable band that could really go far in the secular rock market, farther than Stryper. The only thing that could hold 'em back is the fact that Jonathan sounds so much like Steve Perry and, of course, if they don't crank out several good songs.

"Running Home" showcases the Novella talent well. This song alone makes this entire album worth the price.

Another bonus here is "Shakedown", an unreleased track by Whitecross. It sounds kind of like a "B-side" single, fitting stylistically somewhere between "I Believe" and "Because Of Jesus". "Covered By Blood" by Jerusalem is included here, which was unavailable in the States until this record and "Ten Years After" was released.

A few of the tracks here preceded the albums they are featured on, like "Babylon" by Light Force, and "You Live Fast" by Scarlet Red. "Come Together" by Bjorn Stigsson made its US debut here, before Pure Metal got the US licensing for his solo album "Together With Friends" (a hot record).

Although a good idea, this record would've been better if it offered some neo-classical instrumental work a la Vinnie Moore and Tony MacAlpine.

Novella's full-length debut album probably won't be out for a long while, which makes checking this album out a necessity.

--DV

"Don't Take The M666" - Sacrificial Death

Guess what we have here? Thrash! It surprised ya, huh? Thrash is in and Sacrificial Death finally got their first demo tape out. This stuff is real heavy and plodding. The guitarist on this tape, Todd Brown, knows how to play pretty well.

The production is not very good, but the thrash is real. The song compositions sound garage-ish, but show potential and a determination to get faster and faster.

To order, send \$6 to: Doug Combs, 10101 N. 91st Avenue #135, Peoria AZ 85345.
--DV

"Beat The Heat" - Lex Rex

Lex Rex, which stands for "God's Law Is King" in Latin, is a hot band! Their press release is a tad pretentious, yet their music is tight and produced professionally. They don't have the look of a hair metal band, but they've got the crunch. With this sound, it sounds like they've got the equipment also. Is that a Marshall I hear?

Harv Prichard, lead vocalist and songwriter, powers his range into the microphone well. This is a 10-song custom tape that doesn't disappoint. It's commercial and it bites too.

You can reach them by writing: PO Box 694, Blountville TN 37617.

--DV

"Love Will Rise" - Retrace

This commercial hard rock band from Sweden is back with a single. Their demo, which was raved about in the last issue, is now sold out. "Love Will Rise" and the flipside, "You By My Side", find Retrace carving out a more commercial sound than before. This material is more along the lines of Petra than, say Charizma. Pretty good stuff here. Clean production and nice vocals, but a little too nice for some heavy metal diets. To order, send \$6 cash (dangerous, I know, but they can't easily cash checks drawn from US banks. This is their request.) to: Retrace Co, Waermo, Backalyckevagen 16, 552 58 Jonkoping, Sweden.

DeGarmo & Key

\$5 OFFICIAL TOUR ZINE

This is too good to pass up!

The DeGarmo & Key official "Rock Solid" tour 'zine. Complete with over 70 rad pics of the band sharing their Rock Solid message and plenty of informative stuff about Eddie, Dana, Tommy, and Greg. Also with every Book comes a full color pull out poster of the guys rockin' for Jesus. And that's only the beginning! 12 of their greatest rock tunes and a chord chart are also included. All this for only 5.00 U.S.

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ONLY VISITING THIS MAGAZINE

Photo by Nob Fukada



Heaven's Metal finally had the privilege of interviewing Larry Norman, who many consider to be the founder of Christian rock and roll. This is part one of a two-part interview.

****What have you been up to the last two years?**

"My son was born premature. He came 10 weeks early, so that cancelled my American tour. I stayed home with him. Then he caught up to what he should be and he was fine and in no possible danger. Then I went back to doing concerts."

****What is Larry Norman up to now?**

I'm just finishing a new album in Sweden. It's called "Stranded In Babylon". There's a few things like the "Face 2 Face" video. It's an hour long video that's been released to the stores. (A very good one...ed) There's a compact disc, which is completely full. It has as many songs as you could squeeze on a compact disc.

It's got a bunch of brand new stuff, plus it's got some...I don't know what you'd call it, a greatest hits?...It's a compilation or something. It's retrospective. It goes back about 32 years ago to when I wrote a song at age nine. It's all rock and roll. They think the old stuff is real funny. People like it, but I don't like it very much, 'cause I wrote it. Other people say it sounds just as good as what I wrote 10 years ago."

****I heard that you just added four extra songs. What songs are gonna be on it?**

"We found out there was 20 more minutes left on the cd. We put 13 songs on there and it still wasn't full, so now there's gonna be 17, 18, or 19 songs, however many can fit.

"The songs are: 'Living In The 20th Century'; 'That's When Jesus Knew'; 'I Love You'; 'Looking For The Footprints'; 'The Man From Galilee'; 'It's Only Today That Counts'; 'Out of My System'; 'Why Don't You Look Into Jesus'; 'Soul On Fire'; 'Why Should The Devil Have All The Good Music?'; 'The Outlaw'; 'Watch What You're Doing'; and 'The Sun Began To Rain', which Dudley Moore played piano on...he just moved closer to my house and called me up and gave me his new address, so I told him I'd send him one of the compact discs. This version of 'Watch What You're Doing' is a different mix that includes all the verses. The mix that was released by Word had one of the verses cut out. I don't think it was controversial, but I kept getting edited."

****How does that feel?**

"It's difficult. It happened at MGM and it happened at Capital Records. They thought things weren't commercial. They don't realize what people think is commercial this week; you know, next year won't be. What people think is irrelevant this year might be very relevant next year. The world's always changing. Political situations are always

changing. The music industry is always re-focusing on what they think is a commercial direction to go. I just try to ignore all that and write songs from my heart and say what I'm feeling."

****Tell me about "Stranded In Babylon".**

"Well, you've never heard any of the songs. It's all new songs. It's hard to describe the direction of the music. After 'In Another Land', I did 'Something New Under The Sun', which was in '75 and '76. The music started changing and all they (Word) wanted was the same album. They wanted me to keep on putting out 'In Another Land', you know, every year. I had changed. They didn't think it was commercial. I've continued to do the kind of music I felt that I should be doing. I think the industry has changed around a lot and caught up with what I thought was the right thing to do, so I have no problems now with getting it released in other countries. I guess I'm gonna have to release it over here to the stores myself, because there's still no company...I don't know, they get this idea that if you wrote songs 30 years ago, that you can't possibly be any good today...that you're over the hill. Who decides that? I haven't had any problems getting my albums released in other countries, but I seem to always have problems in America. I don't know why."

****What's the lyrical direction?**

"It's political. It's kind of like 'Only Visiting This Planet'. It's about social things. It's got real strong lyrics."

****When do you think it'll be out?**

"It should be out in Europe in November. I don't know when it's coming out in America. I'm on tour in Europe for about 30 concerts, so the album's gonna be out for that tour."

****How are the American audiences you play for different than the European and Australian audiences?**

"I don't know. I guess one of the big differences is American audiences seem to have experienced so much in the way of music. They've gone to so many concerts...it's hard for them to listen to what each group is saying, because they're thinking on other levels, like: 'Oh, this group doesn't use smoke bombs or lasers;' or 'This group is not playing very loud;' or 'Wow, this group has really long hair.' I don't know. When I talk to kids and ask them why they like somebody, and their answers puzzle me. I've had so many kids tell me, 'Hey, have you heard (this certain group whose name I won't mention)?' I said, 'Yeah, you liked it?'

"They said, 'Oh yeah, they're great.'

"I said, 'You like their music?' and they said, 'Well, not their music, but their stage

show was good.'

"I don't understand what Americans perceive. I've always been kind of out of phase with the American audience anyway. I've been putting out albums that were banned at the time, and three or four years later they started selling. People liked those albums, but they didn't like the new albums I was putting out. So it seems I've had to wait a few years for each of the albums to suddenly be understood and accepted, but in Europe I've never had any wall between me and the record stores or the record companies. Same thing in Australia. I even have records in India, but I seem to have problems in America."

**What kind of responses do you get from the audiences in Europe? What kind of crowds?

"Well, they're not usually Christian crowds. Certainly there's some Christians in the crowd, but they're university audiences. When you think about it, I don't know why they come: I don't have any radio airplay or secular commercial radio, but somehow they know my name or they've been to some concerts before and they keep comin' and bringin' their friends. It's kind of like an underground response, I guess. There's no advertisements in rock magazines. There's no records in regular rock stores. There's hardly any records in Christian stores over there, because I haven't released that many albums. I've released the ones I've wanted to release, but Europe isn't set up like a big supermarket like America. In each country, you have different distribution ideas. Some of it's direct mail."

"In America there's all these Bible bookstores all over the land, selling records, frisbees, t-shirts, bookmarkers, doilies, posters, little statues and stuff, figurines. It's like supermarket, whereas over in Europe it's not. If it's a bookstore, that's all that is in there--books. It's changed a lot, but not like America. Now you can find records in bookstores in Europe, but not like in America. It's like all the marketing in the world seems to be in America."

"There's a real philosophical movement in Europe. It has nothing to do with being less commercial. It has to do with whether the artist is saying something that makes sense to them on a theological level. It's a philosophical arena of thought, so they're very particular. Most Americans don't go to Europe, because the Europeans don't want 'em. It seems fair: If their gonna be American and only think of God in terms of Americanized religion and can't translate their message to the European mind, then they don't get asked to come. A lot of people don't realize that's what they've been doin'. They've been brought up that way in America."

"I think that's probably fine, because they possibly wouldn't know what to say to an audience of Germans. You can't just talk about the same stuff you'd get away with in America. People are starving all around the world. America is fat. People in America need to lose weight. People in other countries are

having a hard time finding a stable lifestyle. So, Europe and the rest of the world seem to be more interested in ideas. They want to hear what your philosophy is, because life is hard and they know it. In America it is hard, but most people don't know it yet. When you're young you're kind of protected. You might have your own record player and get your own car. In some countries you have to apply for a car and you may have to wait two or three years to get it."

**What do you feel are the most important doctrines of Christianity?

"The cross is the most important doctrine. It's the central point of Christianity. In America, again being caught between both countries, people teach prosperity as a theology: that if you're a Christian, God's gonna give you money somehow. You're gonna prosper. You don't have that idea in countries where people are starving to death. I don't think it's true anyway. Jesus said, 'Take up your cross and follow me.' He didn't say, 'If you follow Me, pick up your checkbook and I'll fill it full of gold.' Here in America we have so many natural resources. It's a business community. You have 240 million people over here. Things can't be the same in America as it is in other countries anyway. In Sweden for instance, there's 8 million people. Well, there's 8 million people just here in L.A. We have a lot of people. I'm not naive enough to think that America could be like Europe or that it should be like Europe or that there's anything wrong with America being like America. What I was saying before was that it's difficult for an American to communicate to someone from another country, unless they've experienced another kind of reality outside of their American upbringing. The gospel translates to other countries if you'll talk about the real

gospel, which is the cross, which is Christ's death and His resurrection and our forgiveness of sins and our repentance. All of that translates, but talking about money and some evangelist with a video satellite up in the air... That kind of stuff just seems weird to Europeans. They think we're kind of nuts. Of course the scandals with Mr. Swaggart and Mr. Bakker have just made people in Europe shake their heads more and just laugh and say, 'Americans are so strange. Why can't they understand what the Bible is telling them?'"

**Do you have plans to tour the States?

"I don't really know. I can't answer about America. I've had this running dialogue with America. I don't understand why. I don't have trouble with my audiences, but I have trouble with the people who advertise to the audiences. I've had difficulty with the record companies. For example, I signed with a certain company and they wanted my next album and I gave it to them, but they weren't interested in 'Only Visiting This Planet', which was only two years old at that time (1974). They weren't interested in 'Planet' or 'So Long Ago The Garden'. They didn't understand it. So I released the next album and they thought this was great and then I released the album after that and they didn't like it. They just wanted me to keep on making the exact same statement over and over again. So, I've had a history of difficulty communicating to the executives that run the world of gospel in America, and I think that's because there's such big business in America. In other countries, there is no gigantic industry. There's not a lot of money in gospel, basically. If you preach the gospel, you must be a Christian. There's absolutely no financial reason to do it." **HM**



THE STRUGGLES OF JOSHUA



"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 'Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses...No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" (Joshua 1:1-5)

God's people had struggled for forty years in the desert. They were on the brink of crossing into the land that God had promised them, but the Jordan River was in its flood stage. It was a mile across and it was a raging river. God had to step in and perform a

miracle.

Joshua Perahia, leader of the LA band Joshua, has struggled for years to get into the musician's promised land: an international recording contract with a giant record company and be able to sing their message to the hearts of the masses. Just when Joshua was about to enter in, his lead singer, bassist, and keyboardist walked out. He could not go on unless God moved. After a month and a half to think about it, the players agreed to come back. So, the band is intact.

In just a month or two, we'll find out if God takes him into this promised land or not. Right now his US licensing, salary, and scheduled tour are all on hold.

You may wonder, "Who is Joshua?" The following interview should answer this

question and more. Read on.

****Fill me in on your new album and your contract with RCA Records and Dieter Dierks.**

"Well," explains Joshua, "what happened is that we did the "Surrender" tour in 1986 throughout the mainland of Europe. Before we left it was set up that I was to meet Dieter Dierks. We called out and said we were coming. They told us to come and see them when we got into town. We stopped in between some shows and got an appointment with Dieter. We came into the office and sat there and listened to three demos that we made here in LA. He was just freaking out when he was listening to them.

"He turns around and looks me right in the eye, sticks out his hand and says, 'When are you available to start working on demos right here in my studio?'

"I said, 'Immediately.' He said, 'I'll see you on Monday. You can come in here then and the studio is yours. You can stay here.'

"We moved into this hotel and immediately started recording. It took us about a week, but we did about nine songs. He only wanted three or four, so he was freaked out. He called me in Switzerland and told me he hadn't heard anything like this. He can't believe it. 'This guy comes in and does a whole album's worth of material in a week. It has never happened before. The quality of the songs...' He was going on and on. 'I can't believe this. I can't believe this.' He said, 'I have 25 tapes to listen to on the lake here in Geneva, and all I am going to listen to is this one tape over and over again.'

"So, we put a contract together and, within six months, we had a contract signed. Dieter made a few calls with his power and got the whole thing to happen with Franz Von Auesperg, who was the one who did the signing. Actually, Franz is a prince. So this is kind of a fairy-tale story. It's interesting how it all happened: getting signed in Germany with all the castles and the prince is the guy who did the signing (laughter); after all the hard work in LA trying to do the club scene; going here and there; and the whole thing happens in another part of the world.

"We waited two years for the Scorpions to get out of the studio, so we could come in and work with it. What happened is that we really got tired of waiting by the second year. We thought it was going to drag on and on, and they offered us another producer. So Eddie Kramer came into the picture. Actually, before him was Michael Wagener. But Michael, I guess, made too many demands of the studio. Dieter schooled Michael and gave him his start in his career. Dieter was a little upset about some of the demands Michael made, being a long-time student and all, so we were offered Eddie Kramer. We got along fine. Eddie Kramer's production was in its second month and Dieter listened to it and fired the whole thing. He didn't like Eddie's arrange-

ments. That blew that out completely. He brought in a German producer that thinks very much like himself, who had been working with him for years--Frank Meno. We would've had Dieter himself produce it if we had waited four months longer. He was really the executive producer. He was watching over everything. It was almost like having him there, because nothing that wasn't qualified got by.

"So, we had to start all over again into our third month. Dieter was very happy. He was checking it on a very close basis, sometimes coming by everyday to listen to what was going on. The record company got very concerned. RCA was there constantly.

"It was released in Germany and Europe after seven months. We would've had it released in the US, but Franz Von Auesperg, who was gonna take it to RCA USA--his daughter got very, very ill and he had to cancel all plans to come to the US. We did meet them on a tv show we did in New York. They invited us to meet everyone at BMG (that's what RCA is called now). We got the red carpet treatment: the limousine to the airport and everything. They just really love the record, so I thought we were pretty much in with the company. RCA USA has dropped us completely, because we put 'This album is dedicated to the glory of God' on the record. "In Europe, they're sending out a four-song cd that they're calling 'Four-hit guaranteed singles'. They said they'd never done that before in Germany, so this is brand new. They picked 'Only Yesterday'; 'Reach Up'; 'Crying Out For Love'; and 'Livin' On The Edge'. They said they've not had a band yet that they believed they had six singles on the record."

**Yeah, even the Scorpions.

"They only really planned two for their new album."

**What do they think of your lyrics and your faith?

"Well, you know everyone's gonna be very alarmed, to put it mildly, about a thing like that. What are we gonna do? How far are we gonna take it? Nobody's got any answers. I won't try to brainstorm this. Maybe other guys do in other bands. I'm not into brainstorming. I'm playing for the Lord. If this is the band that He wants to use, I'll never stand in the way. I'll only exhort and go forward, doin' all I can. If I lose my career, I'm gonna lose it. If it turns people off...but in a way, like the U2's and Mister Mister--whether or not they deny it, I feel they have been used by God. Both those bands have done songs that've ministered to me. Both of 'em have done things that have turned me off, like 'Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For'. That's very confusing to me. I know, if it's confusing to me, it could also be to a new believer or a person who doesn't believe at all. If you've found God, you should've found everything you're looking for.

"The bottom line is, I want God to pull this band into something. If we're a Phoe-



Joshua hamming it up with Tina Turner

nix from the fire and from our ashes, from all the problems we've had in the past, something great has come from it, I hope that the power of that bird that comes up again is great. We've had so much difficulty and through it all we've gotten so much closer to the Lord and I've found Christian members as opposed to before that I didn't have.

"The company has already been disappointed, to say the least. Mentioning 'This album's dedicated to the glory of God' brought a little rash of vehemency of words. It's gonna be an uphill climb. Other bands don't have to worry about that. They can sell sin and nobody cares. This is obviously the last days and these things are gonna be hated, things that we say and believe in, but they're in every song. Every song on this album is religious, even though some of 'em sound like: I've been waiting for a beautiful girl to come into my life, which I have to admit I've been waiting. I've written about wondering why the

Lord has singled maybe someone out for not being able to have a relationship. You know, you go to church and see couples, see everybody loving and they're all so happy; and then maybe somebody else is pulled away from that. All they seem to have in their life is just this job that they have to do. A job that they have to do and, because of it, they're almost imprisoned. They can't feel the feelings that other people get to have on earth. Everybody's task on earth is different. To be separated and have to come away from the feeling of love and all that is in that song, but still those words about the Lord are in every song.

"'Living On The Edge' talks about a girl who's accepted the Lord and has turned it away. Though it sounds a little subtle, I'm not gonna write songs that tip-toe through the tulips with Christianity. I think we have enough of that. We're gonna go for a different approach. I hope it is a burden from God and not contrived from myself."

****What are your views on television evangelists?**

"Well, I believe my burden is to say something about that. I'm really appalled by them. I don't think anybody really gets saved through them. If they are, it's so temporary. I believe what television evangelists are telling us is that people can sin up a storm, but if they repent and send their dollars to them, God will forgive them. Giving to the evangelist is giving to God. I think they're all empire builders. I'm now convinced that none of them are legitimate, because the spirit that it takes for a man to build an evangelistic church cannot, I believe, have anything to do truly with spreading the Word of God. I believe it has to be money-oriented and has to be business-oriented. I don't see where Jesus is in that. Somebody could say the same thing for our rock band, and they all do! They all knock the rock bands, but, at the very same time, I have little company here.

"I believe that they have to be exposed. People have to see what they're doing. I believe that people have to stop being lazy and not going to church and watching them on tv. I understand that there are cripples and there are people who can't get out and for them it's a problem, but for most people, I'd say 90% of the people, there's no excuse for not going to church and being actively involved with other Christians and not relying on a very convenient American television.

"Eventually, I'm going to write a song about it. It's not going to be as disgusting as Ozzy's. I think the spirit of what he's saying is true. Do you realize how they have duped old people out of their pensions? People that barely have any dollars are giving all their money to people who are laughing about it. 'How much are we gonna get tonight?' They hype backstage like before a football game. They're hyping, 'Come on, come on, we're gonna do it. We're gonna get that money. We're gonna succeed!' You must believe that spirit is alive in all the stations. Maybe they're not serving God, but serving themselves. They have to be challenged. I would like to confront them and debate them."

****Tell me more about your past.**

"This band technically started in '79, after one year of planning by myself and my brother to put this band together. Before then, all I'd been doing was playing in clubs, one-nighters, little parties, or shows to substantiate more income when I was going to UCLA for pre-med. That was basically my whole teen life well into my 20's--was to become a doctor. The music just became too much. My heart just wasn't in it anymore. I wasn't finding any happiness whatsoever in the medical situation. The guitar was always there. I would race home from school and my med classes just to play. When I'd be studying for my tests until five in the morning, I'd have these 15-minute breaks where I could just not

put down my guitar. It just became too much of a thing and got my heart. I did a couple key shows that really touched me and I felt that there was something here that was my destiny, that I had to do. Finally, at the age of 25, I got out of medicine and full-time into this. After a couple years struggling around town, playing in various small little bands and doing my own three-piece band thing, I started Joshua. I was gonna do a solo project and send the tapes out, and everytime all I got from the record companies was, 'We wanna see a group.' So, I got a band together in '80 and started playing the circuit.

"There was just a lot of problems, basically with members. I was a Christian, but I wasn't born again. I was Greek Orthodox. We had a band of non-believers and there was always that tugging: what are they gonna do? What am I gonna do? Where does my heart lie? Do I wanna serve God? Can I write words about girls? There was almost this Catholic attitude of 'this is not my whole life. There's other things.' Being true born-again, just giving your life to the Lord, I believe is a whole different thing. I'm not putting down the Greek Orthodox or Catholic church, I'm just talking about when the service of God becomes the whole thing in your life. In '83 came a reckoning when I became born again. A girl took me to a Bible study course and there were people getting slain in the Spirit. I thought everybody was a lunatic. I didn't understand. Even though I loved Jesus, I thought they were fanatics and wild. I got slain in the Spirit and it all changed.

"I would look at a trend as right from the pit of hell."

"I let the band know that I was going to be full-on dedicating my life to God. I took an ad out for this show, which was booked with a real satanic band, and put a crucifix on it. I wanted to make the boundaries split. My band saw that cross and they freaked out. A couple of 'em quit and a couple said, 'I want nothing to do with this direction,' so I fired the other two and was just left with one guy. We started a whole new band in '83, which was the beginning of the Surrender lineup."

****Did you ever play that show?**

"Yes, we did the show. We had 16 roadies. Our roadies surrounded the stage for that band. I warned their manager, 'That if they make one remark about Satan or anything dirty or vile, or if they bring on their rack and have a girl put on it and start spanking her, we will throw your entire show out the front door of this club. I guarantee it.' It was a terrible thing

for me to do and say, but I was so incensed that the club owner booked us with them.

"Our 16 roadies sat surrounding their whole set and they were looking very nervously with their masks and everything, and looking at our crew very scared. They just played a very straight set. They never said anything. Needless to say, we never played the club again.

"I had my family out there and a lot of people from the church. If they would've seen the racks and women, they would've never believed me again. It was like the new embarkment on what I really planned on doing with the band.

"It's been a rough go ever since then. Obviously, trying to sell a Christian band in a city like this has been virtually impossible. Finally came the Surrender album. We had Jeff Fenholt in the group, the lead singer from "Jesus Christ Superstar". He basically didn't care for the band that I had. He felt the musicians weren't very good. I was very hurt from it. He offered me to go with him and take two other very well-known musicians. He'd love to work with me, 'cause he loved the songwriting, but I had to stay with the guys in the band out of loyalty. We were all serving God together, so I said goodbye to Jeff.

"We continued with the Surrender lineup as a band with really no lead singer. Ken sang sometimes. We would bring in a guy to sing one show and bring in a guy to sing another show. The songs were all so high and out of Ken's range that we had a real difficulty doing our set. I was just asking the Lord, 'What am I gonna do Lord? I don't feel the message penetrating that way. It doesn't make me happy inside. I envision my band having this Micky Thomas-type singer or a Steve Perry. I don't really have any feeling in my heart for that low-voiced sound.'

"I didn't know where we were gonna go. We had another singer when we did the Surrender tour through Europe, and he would share the set with Ken. I knew this was not working. We had to change all the notes on some songs to accomodate for a lower-range singer. The other singer struggled with the feeling. It just wasn't there. It didn't come naturally to him.

"When we returned from Europe, Rob Rock filled the lead vocal slot, which was a miracle. He has a wonderful voice. He has that endless range, that power sound, that Steve Perry, Dio, Coverdale, all in one. Ken felt that maybe his talents couldn't be justified anymore, because I know he wants to be a singer. So, I agreed that he should go do his thing. We just changed to a whole new lineup one by one for the Intense Defense tour. It's a shame, a lot of things that happened. I love the other guys in the band. I'm still good friends with all of 'em. I believe God's will is being done, or He would've stopped this--because that was my prayer.

"My life-long dream of that right singer finally showed up in Rob. He accepted the Lord at Hal Lindsay's church, which is the church I go to. I felt in my heart he would be



Joshua I to r: Emil Lech, bass; Tim Gehrt, drums; Rob Rock, vocals; Josh Perahia; and Greg Shultz, keys.

born again. It was the last statement. 'You got your singer, you got the look, but what about his commission?' Rob had a Christian mom and dad and was brought up in a Christian home, but wasn't born again--to where he'd given his whole life, spirit and soul to the Lord yet. He kept coming to church with me and I kept ministering to him and he was very interested. One day he walked up there in front of that whole body and, in front of everybody, confessed that he wanted to be born again. I ran up there when I saw him and stood by his side."

****Does your church support what you're doing?**

"Absolutely. We rehearsed in the church when we got back from Europe. We needed one big stage for just a few weeks to

get our show together before we go back into our smaller rehearsal studio that we own. Hal Lindsay bought a brand new church here in Torrance, a gigantic warehouse, and gave us one of the big rooms that was unoccupied. We've played a benefit for the church about three years ago. We credit them on the album, of course. We love 'em for their support."

****Any parting words?**

"Seek the Lord vehemently, despite whatever goes on around you--whatever your friends or even a church or tv evangelist might say. The key word for me is not to be lazy. To read the Word. Really study it. If you don't understand it, find all the commentaries. Find 100 of 'em, original Greek translations, whatever. Find out who Christ was and try to be like Him as much as you possibly can.

"Rip off Jesus. Don't rip off others. Don't rip off rock bands. Find what works best for you, for yourself, for your personality, the way God made you. Don't be like anybody else. Don't follow any trends. I would look at a trend as right from the pit of hell. Every trend, every single one, be it Christian or non-Christian, is from Satan. Every person is unique, so when you do your own thing in Jesus, that means you're no longer following a trend. You're gonna last. It's gonna be really from your heart, not from somebody's preaching down your throat some distorted possible message--or a good one. It has to work for you. It has to be a relationship.

"Don't laze out. Read the Word and find God on your own. I believe it's the only way it'll last forever. It means something to be with other Christians. Iron sharpens iron, and that's totally important, but I believe the top

thing is: Do what works best for you and your walk with God. Seek Him on your own more than anything. Don't listen to the Words of other people when it might come to a chance that they'll lead you astray. Spend a lot of your own hours by yourself, reading and reading and studying. When you're confused, ask, but not just ask one person or look at one band for the answer. Do it because you're really curious about it and not just doing it because rock and roll Jesus is really trendy right now. You're talking about your life and your soul. It's a very heavy thing. I just don't think it can be passed on by following a gang of other people.

"Rock bands are basically gangs. When you follow these guys and the way they perceive Jesus, you better be sure it's the real thing...because your life depends on it. When you die, you're gonna be held accountable for all you do.

"Study on your own and then come together and get viewpoints, so that maybe you didn't misinterpret something." **HM**

TRADING POST

* Christian Musicians United is an organization designed to educate, motivate, and unify the musical servants of our Lord--Jesus. All styles represented. For more info, and a free copy of CMU Magazine, write: CMU, 91-16 86th St, Woodhaven NY 11421; or call (718) 296-5536 9-5 M-F.

* Sardonyx is now offering their newsletter FREE to anyone interested in hearing more about their metal ministry. Write: Sardonyx, RD 1, Box 307D, McAlisterville PA 17049.

* Who Can Be Against? is an occasionally-published fanzine confronting issues in the realm of Christian music. Send 35 cents for an issue to: PJRL/WCBAP, 320 S. Waterdown St, Waupun WI 53963.

* Well established Christian metal band, Vigilance, is seeking committed professional double bass drummer. We have demo out. Goals are full time ministry. Send demo, biography, and photo to: Vigilance Productions, Suite 2187, 1420 NW Gilman Blvd, Issaquah WA 98027-5327; or call (206) 392-7374.

* Peace is a challenging magazine written with articles by young people to help you and your walk with the Lord. For a free subscription, write to: Peace, PO Box 1088, Violet LA 70092.

* Radio Airplay? Send music to The Lion's Roar, c/o Gill Bancroft, 110 East 5th, McCook NE 69001. He plays metal.

* KGHO's White Metal Show needs albums, cassettes, CD's and demos for airplay. Please send to: KGHO's White Metal, c/o Dave Archer, 1416 Bay Ave, Aberdeen WA 98520. (206) 532-3993.

* SlaughterHouse is a free underground zine. Write: Dave Simmons Jr, 21370 Pine Ridge Ave, Apple Valley CA 92307.

* Straight Fish is another free underground zine. Write: Jake and Debi Jacobs, 7427 Hastings Ave, Hesperia CA 92345.

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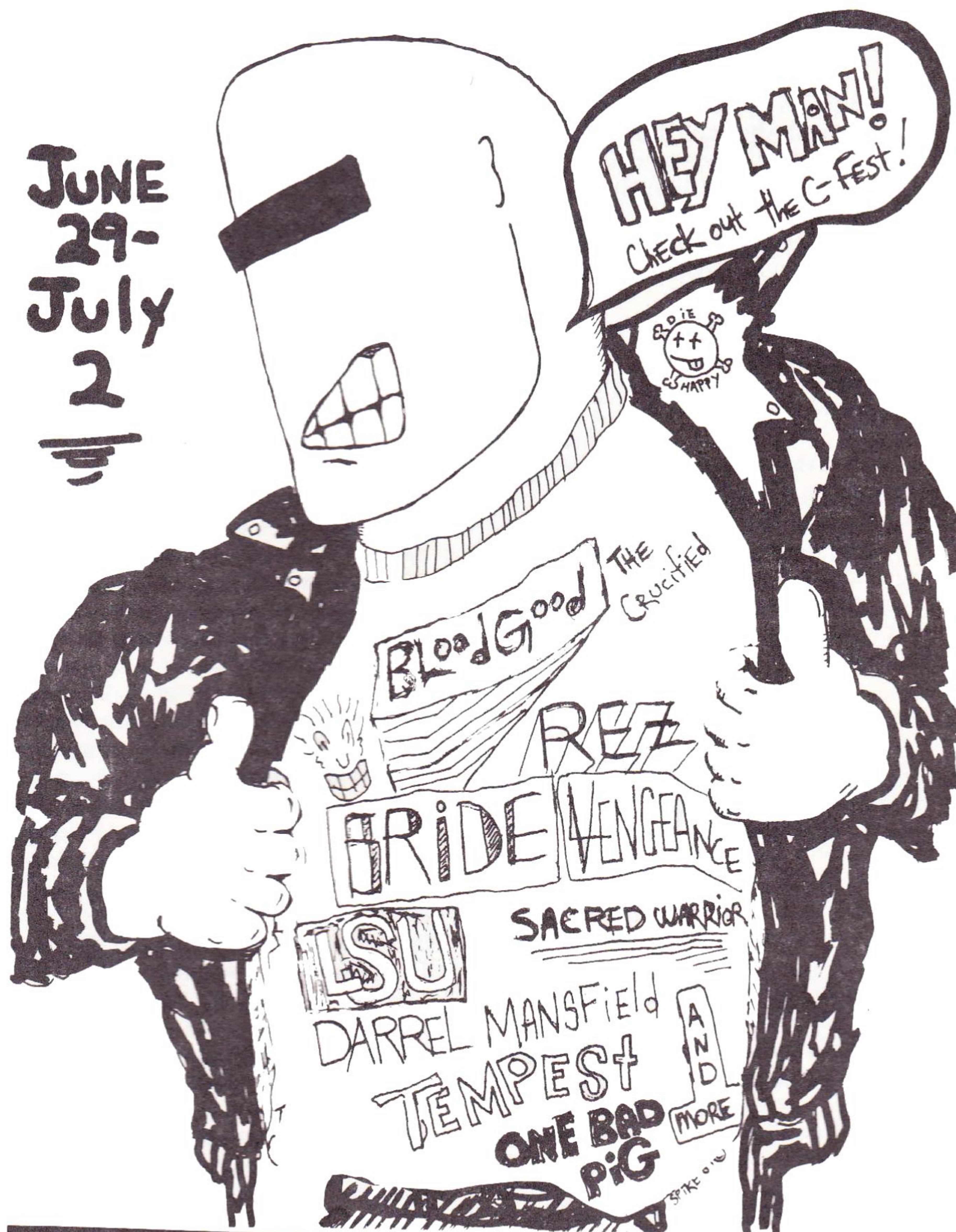
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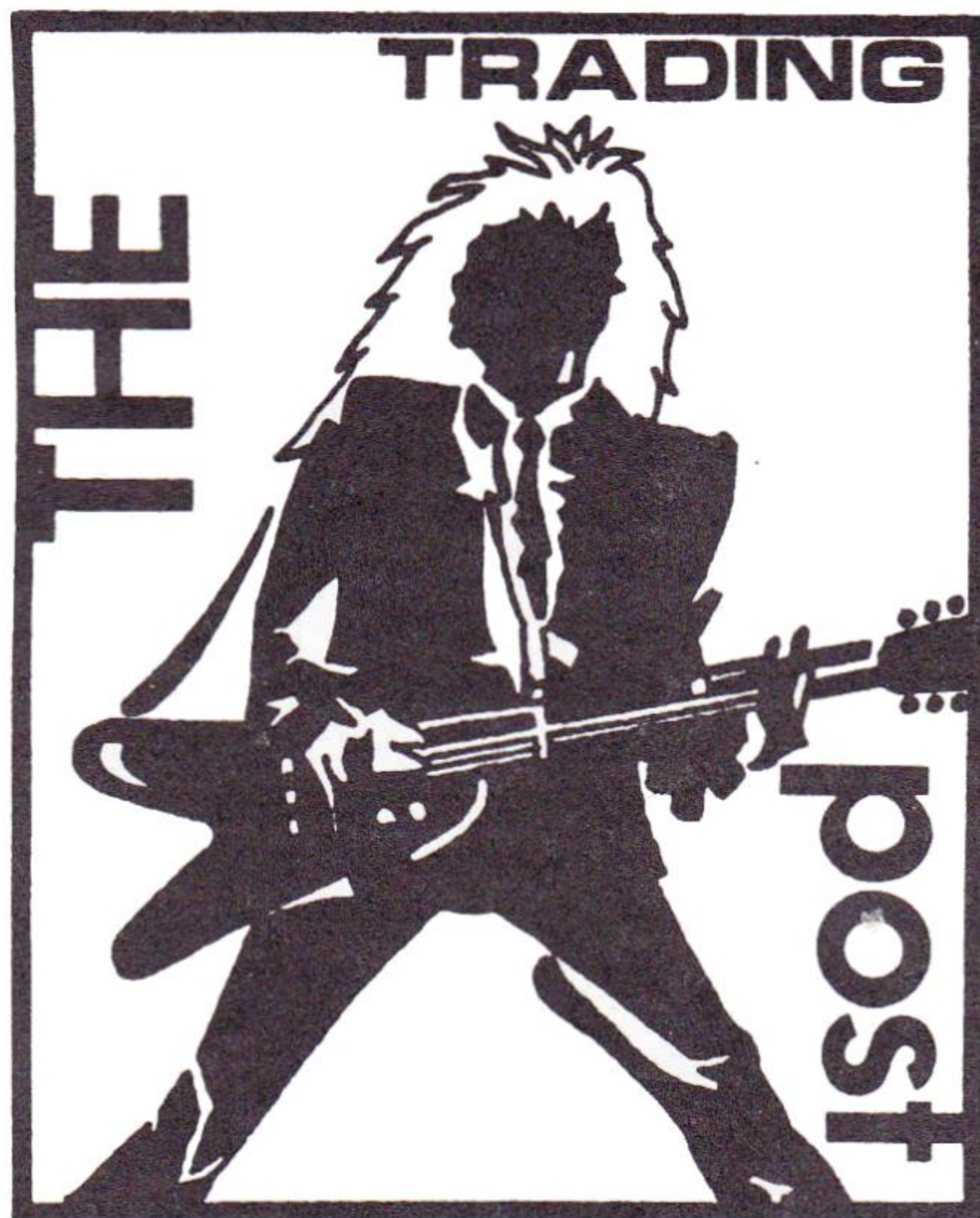
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* **Pen Pal?** William Metzger II, Box 147, Fox Lake WI 53933.

* **Yo Magazine:** Attention all moshers and thrash mongers! If you want a magazine that caters to your (Thrash, Speed, and Hardcore) needs, then you need to order YO! Just send a L.S.A.S.E. with 50 cents postage and then mosh real hard! 9101 Rosanna Ave, Garden Grove CA 92641. They are gonna try to hold the 1st Annual Christian Metal Awards. Write for info.

* **White Noise**, which used to be called Risen Rock (not Rikken Roxx). Subscriptions are \$3. Write: PO Box 1564, Point Roberts WA 98281-1564.

* **Mystery** is auditioning vocalists. Melodic metal to crunchy commercial, sold out to Jesus, willing to travel. Need bio, picture, tape. Write: Mystery, 10578 Cochiti Rd #1, Apple Valley CA 92308; or cali Mike (619) 247-0636; or Ronnie 240-2546 (studio).

* **The Trial:** The wildest fiction you'll ever read! Send \$2 to Mark Hodges, PO Box 915, Muskegon MI 49443-0915.

* **Tempered Steel** is a 1-hour syndicated radio program designed to share the Word of God through Christian heavy metal. Distributed nationally with a focus on secular radio stations. Due to begin airing April/May. Requesting demos from underground metal bands, along w/ info about the band. Send to: Tempered Steel, PO Box 1212, Ft. Myers FL 33902.

* **Musicians:** My idea is to open up a music station by myself or with a friend, but we need some music. If there's anybody who has promotional kits, tracts, interviews, anything, even photos, send to: Danny Davis, PO Box 1917 Sackville, N.B. E0A-3C0, Canada.

* **Adonai Metal Rock**, a French Christian metal radio show and zine. They need demos, pictures, and bios. Send to: Adonai Metal Rock, Daniel Baillod, Fregimont, 47 360 Prayssas, France. For a copy of their zine, send \$5.

* **Underground Uncovered** is a 30-minute demo show aired weekly on Oklahoma City's KOKF 91FM. Underground Uncovered asks for listener's response to each song. All

responses are recorded. Hard Rock Ministries, producers of the show, will be in communication with the bands about the listener's opinions. Bands, please send demos for possible airplay w/ bio and lyrics included. Write: Hard Rock Ministries, c/o Underground Uncovered, PO Box 780424, Oklahoma City OK 73178, Attn: Timmy Brown.

* **The Rock**, KOKF's nightly Christian metal show, requests press kits, demos, tour info, tapes, cd's, and records for possible airplay. Write to above address.

* **Gospel Metal** \$3 for a sample issue or \$10 for an annual subscription fee (3 issues/year) c/o Keith Day, 3331 E. Rómelle, Orange CA 92669.

* **The Pendragon:** c/o Jeff McCormack, 5305 "C" St, Biloxi MS 39530. Lots of up-to-date news, plus reviews, interviews & more, on the signed, the unsigned and the should be signed, white metal bands. Sample issue: \$2 (US); \$3 (Canada); \$4 (Overseas). Subscription (6 issue): \$9 (US); \$15 (Canada); \$20 (Overseas).

* Tired of boring mail? Subscribe to **Truth Supplement** free: Veritas Fellowship, PO Box 34, Streamwood IL 60107.

* **Christian Guitarist and Bassist** wanted for HM band with label interest. Playing to secular audience. Need great chops, experience, dedication, and image. Professionals only! NYC rehearsals. Call: (212) 737-0598.

* **Stainless Steel** is a 3-hour radio show on WVCP, a secular station, playing only Christian rock and white metal. They are requesting demos of all types. All demos will receive guaranteed airplay and a review in our newsletter. Send demos to: Stainless Steel, PO Box 90582, Nashville TN 37209.

* **Radically Saved:** Sample issue \$2, overseas \$4. 6 issues \$6.75, overseas \$11. 11258 103rd Ave, Kimball MN 55353. Bands: send demos, info, and photos.

* **Eclairs Metalliques** is a Christian metal radio show in Belgium. They request lp's, demos, etc. Write: Eclairs Metalliques, Pascal Zander, 136 Rue F. Nicolay, 4310 Saint Nicolas, Belgium.

* **Different Drummer** - an alternative Christian music zine. News, reviews, and articles on the BEST underground and alternative bands. Only \$6 for 4 issues, or \$1.50 for a sample of the latest issue. Write: Different Drummer, c/o Erin Hooper, 1793 Weston Circle, Camarillo CA 93010.

* **Wanted:** Will pay for original copies of Blairing Out's demo or Vengeance live or rehearsal tapes. Contact: Adrian Ludens, 1515 Morningside Dr, Rapid City SD 57701.

* **Righteous Rock** - Latest issue featuring interviews with Bride, Petra, Majesty, and more! Send \$4 for three issues to: Dennie McGarry, 1039 Morrison, UNC, Chapel Hill NC 27514.

* **Christian metallor seeks gal pen** pals from the age of 14-16. Must be born again Christian without a boyfriend. Write to: David Adams Jr, 168 Dayspring Pl, Pagosa Springs

CO 81147.

* **Bands:** Do you want airplay? WJSR's Christian rock show can give it to you! Send your press kits, demos, tapes, lp's, and cd's to: WJSR's Christian Rock Show, c/o Chris Johnson, 576 Valley Lane, Warrior AL 35180.

* **Ransom Magazine:** radical Christian writing from the UK. Send 10 British Pounds (or USA equivalent) in International Money Order for a six issue subscription. Send to Ransom, 6 Belle Vue Road, Lincoln, Lines, LN1 1HH, England.

* **The Cutting Edge:** \$9 for 12 issues (Overseas send \$20). Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **Rikken Roxx:** \$3 for 2 samples, \$4 for 3 issues, or \$9 for 6 issues. 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **White Throne:** \$3 for current issue. PO Box 20577, Dept. H, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **The Burning Bush:** \$5 for 6 issues (\$9 Overseas). c/o J. Bauman, Route #1, Hwy 23, Mineral Point WI 53565.

* **Take A Stand:** \$6 for 6 monthly issues. Send long SASE for 1st free issue. PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

* **Notebored:** \$5 for 6 issues. \$1 for current issue. (Checks or MO only) Box 202, RD 1, Atglen PA 19310.

Concert Reviews:

King's X played a showcase gig as part of the "South By Southwest" music conference in Austin last March. They were hot! As Merlin Littlefield of ASCAP said, "King's X was so good that it was scary." Spotted in the audience was One Bad Pig and Kemper Crabb.

This incredibly hot show featured all the songs from "Out Of The Silent Planet", as well as tunes from their new album-- "Gretchen Goes To Nebraska".

Bassist/ lead vocalist Doug Pinnick belted out the tunes with energy, sweat, passion, and a smile. Instrumentally and vocally, they were incredibly tight, pulling off their complex sound live. "Visions" was a good example of this where they flew into some high speed thrash riffing. Metallica better work on their chops! King's X goes after it with precision and melody.

One of the new songs, "Mission", talked about preachers, "some tell the truth/ and others tell lies." A hot song with a timely, yet sensitive message.

King's X impressed me. They're hot in the studio and live. Check 'em out whenever possible.

Ruscha blew through Austin this January. Musically, I was expecting lots of pop rock ala their "Come Alive" album. What I saw and heard was beyond my wildest dreams! Ruscha rocked out big time. Here is a Europe



Concerts continued:

clone...down to the Joey Tempest look-alike lead singer.

They've added a metalhead for a guitarist and play through a nice sound system, making Ruscha a melodic metal onslaught. If you like metal--see this band live. Their next album, which should be on a CBS affiliate label, should be a rocker.

MUSICIAN'S QUILL

The Forum Where Musicians Speak Out.

"Tasty Tidbits"

By Josh Kramer

You're a neat person until you tell me I'm wrong. So don't dare confront me with truth! Sound familiar?

"Rebuke a person who is wise and they will respect you, love you, and admire you for loving them enough to care about their situation. Rebuke a fool and they will get

angry, curse you and stab you when your back is turned, or not turned." (Proverbs 9:7-9, slightly expounded version.)

It's easy to love someone who is pretty, or handsome. It's easy to desire the company of a successful, on-the-ball, "with it" person. Try loving someone who: Is not lovely; Lost it all; Given up; Down on their luck (so to speak); Up on their misfortune. Now we all know it's easier to discuss the person's problem behind his back rather than to his face. Right? Of course! Why? Because it's fun to gossip.

Rebuking in love takes guts. Besides, it's not our place to do the rebuking, right? It's the pastor's job! It's a deacon's responsibility! It's not God's perfect will for us to confront a brother or sister who is blowing it. Maybe, if we pray about it (ignore it), it might go away. Maybe it's best to pray about it in detail with people who don't even know who we're praying for. That's called "Holy Gossip." Should we even pray for them? Nah! That takes all the fun and edge out of the discussion. Praying opens up to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Who has the guts? Who has the inner strength and foundation in Christ to love someone so much that they can tell him that he is blowing it? Yeah, but...I'm nobody's judge. The Bible even tells me I'm not to judge or I'll be judged the same way I judge someone else. Right? So what do we suppose God will say when we stand before him and say, "I

didn't know that my sin was just as evil as theirs." That's a nice excuse, but I don't think God will buy it.

Now go through this story and see how many statements are pure heresy, and which ones slam dunk you right to the very core of your soul. Time to do a little repenting...agree? If you really want to know how to deal with someone who is in sin, you know about it, and you want to restore them, check out Matthew 18:15. Any other approach is just a potluck of tasty tidbits. The Lord Jesus is just as interested in tasty tidbit-filled Christians as with lukewarm Christians. **HM**



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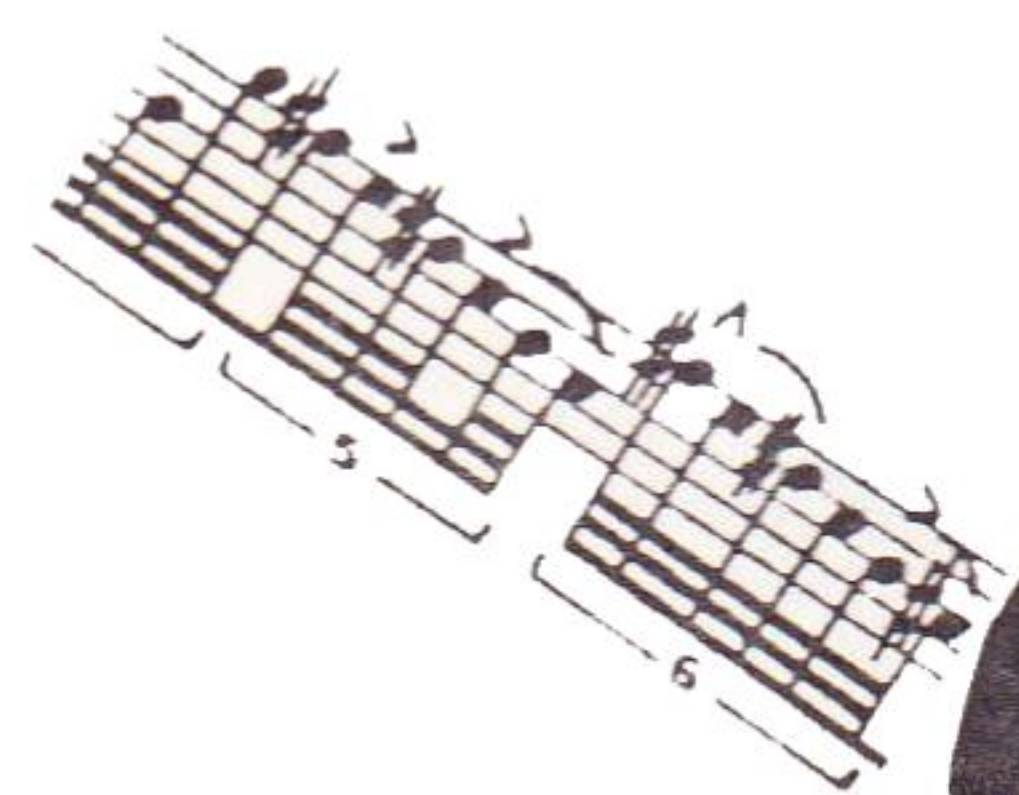
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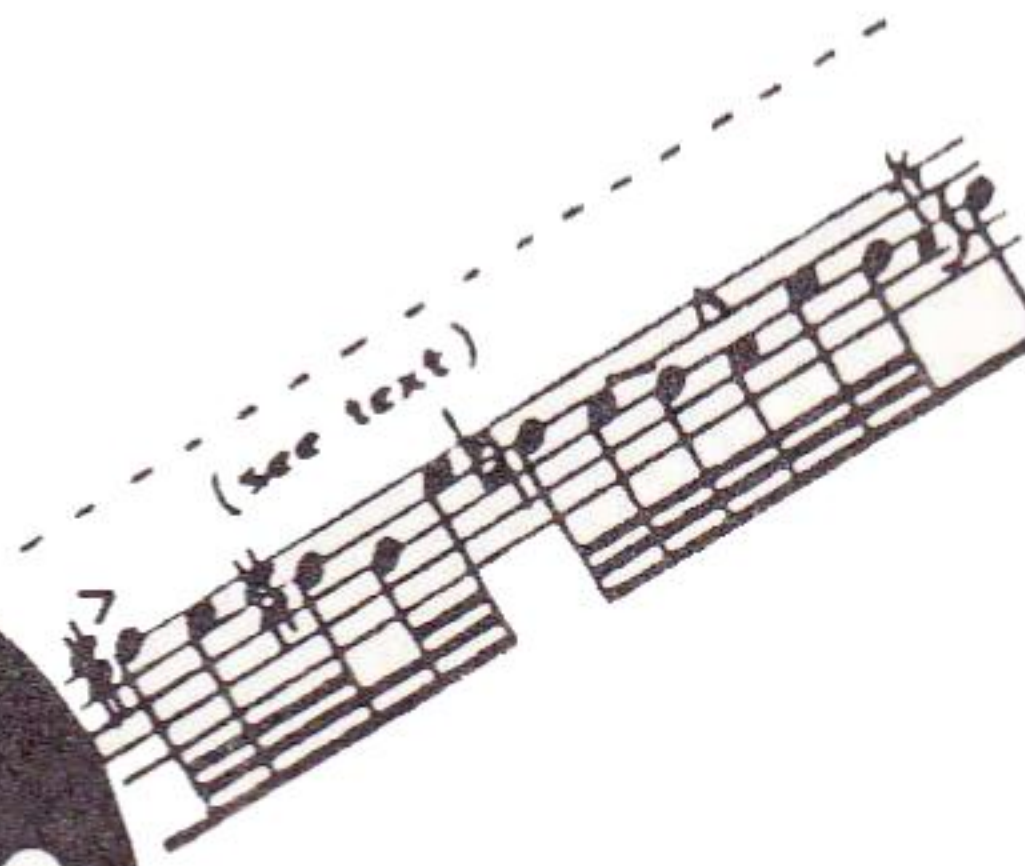
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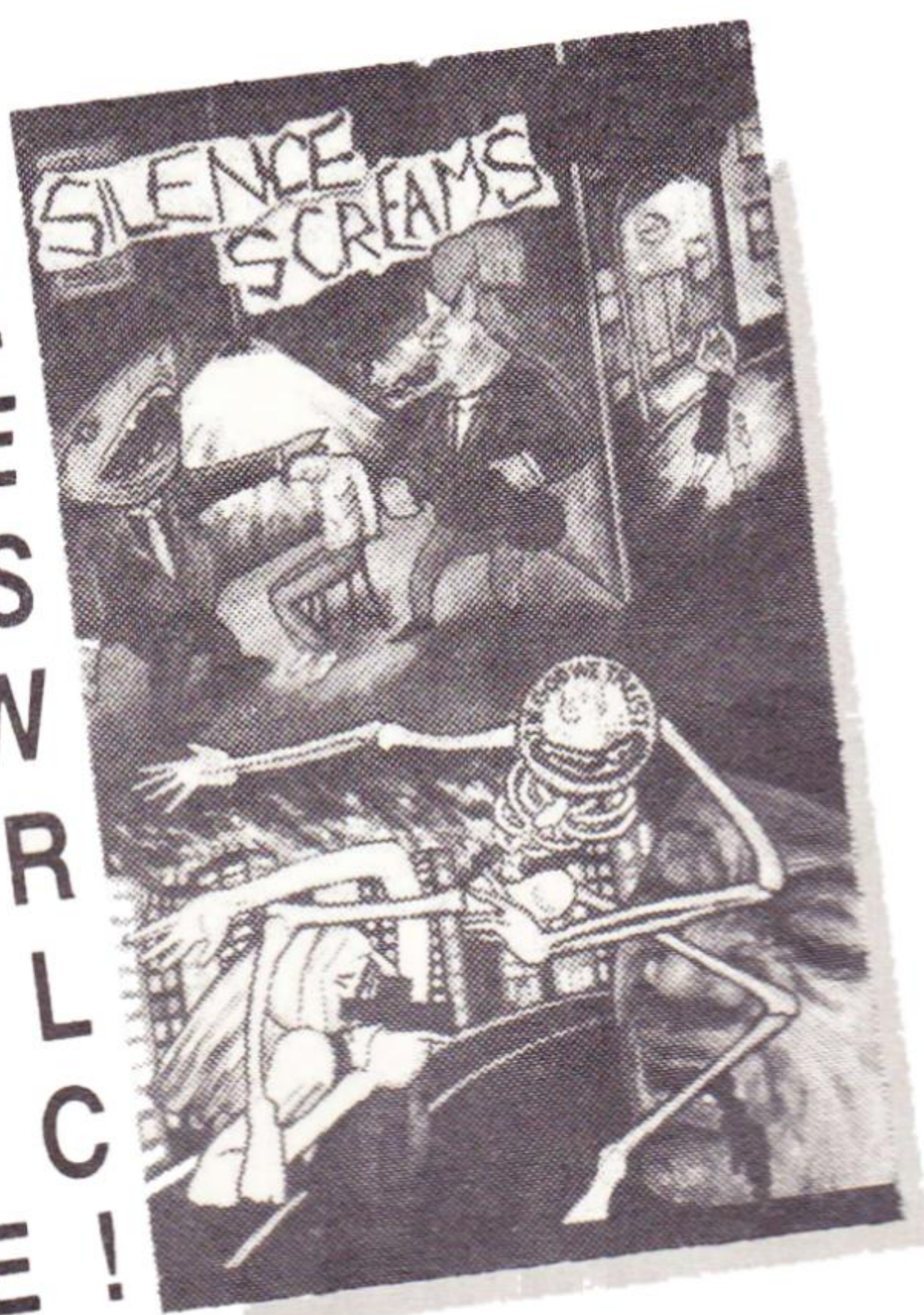


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What is sin? Sin is disobeying God (1 John 3:4). What is the root of sin? The root of sin is rebellion against God. Rebellion is repulsing, or turning away, and going in the opposite direction from something or someone. Sin is when your heart turns away from God to follow its own pursuits.

Sin is something we all have in common. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Sin is prideful and selfish. In the middle of the word "sin" is the letter "i". Pride is what caused us all to fall in sin. We have told God by our heart and our actions that we want to do things our own way, that we're more important than He is.

"For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away." (Isaiah 64:6)

To properly define sin, we have to look at ourselves and at God. God is holy and sinless. We are filthy and sinful. Sin deeply affects our relationship with God. In fact, it separates us from Him.

The Spanish word for "without" is "sin". To be without God and His lordship is to be in and under sin.

Some may not be alarmed about being separated from God. Maybe they don't believe there is a God.

"...Whatever is not from faith is sin." (Romans 14:23)

Someone who doesn't care about their sin, their separation from God, just can't see the end result. "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)

The end result of sin is eternal separation from God (Matthew 25:32). The fact that this separation is eternal makes it much worse for the person who doesn't believe in God than he or she now realizes. After Judgement Day, this person is going to know first-hand that there is a loving God, who they'll be separated from forever, ending up in the lake of fire--the final and eternal death (Matthew 25:41, 46 and Revelation 20:14).

There is a way out of sin and its terrible consequences, though. It is Jesus.

You must turn from sin...but that's not all. You must turn to Jesus (1 Samuel 7:3), who purifies us from sin (Hebrews 1:3). We don't have to get control of our sins first, and then come to God. We don't have to straighten out our lives and stop sinning. We just have to stop, turn away from sin, and turn to Jesus. He'll take care of the rest.

He died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3). He saves His people from sin (Matthew 1:21). He takes away our sin (John 1:29). He cleanses us from sin (1 John 1:7,9) and releases us from its power (Revelation 1:5 and Romans

8:2). He makes things right between us and our Father in Heaven (Hebrews 2:17).

Our rebellion against God vanishes when we cease to rebel against Him, lay our rebellion at His feet, and cling to Him.

When sin is dealt with, it is replaced with a relationship with God. The opposite of sin is not doing good deeds. The opposite of sin is loving God. When we love God, we'll obey Him (John 14:15). It's just a natural response to truly knowing the Creator of the universe.

God not only forgives us our sins, He forgets them as well (Isaiah 43:25). He also gives us His Holy Spirit, which gives us the power over sin (Galatians 5:16). This is not to say, however, that we will never struggle with sin again.

Here are some helpful hints to fight against sin in our lives:

Use God's Word (Psalms 119:11).

Guard the tongue (Psalms 39:1).

Confess sin to the Lord (1 John 1:8,9).

Exercise love (1 Peter 4:8).
Forgive others (Matthew 18:35 and 6:12).

Go to the Advocate (1 John 2:1)!!!

Sin--I hate it.